

# Mountaineer

Vol. 64, No. 43

Published in the interest of Training Support Division West, First U.S. Army and Fort Carson community  
Visit the Fort Carson Web site at [www.carson.army.mil](http://www.carson.army.mil)

Oct. 27, 2006

## Welcome back

Chap. (Capt.) William Johnson receives a warm reception from his family at the welcome home ceremony on Sunday at the Special Events Center. Johnson is one of 149 Soldiers from the 64th Combat Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, that returned after supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom for the past year.



Photo by Michael J. Pach



Photo by Rebecca E. Tonn

## Home at last

Family members, friends and Soldiers cheer after Soldiers from the 3rd HBCT and the 947th Engineer Company of the Colorado National Guard march into the Special Events Center for their homecoming ceremony, Wednesday.

## INSIDE THE MOUNTAINEER

### Opinion/Editorial

Red Ribbons	2
Sound Off	2

### News

Veterans Pride	3
E-cards to Soldiers	3
U.S. Army North activated	4

### Military

Police Training Center	5
Military Briefs	6
New TDS patch	7
Smith addresses work force	7

Convoy training	8-9
Reflections on OIF tour	10

### Community

Winter weather plan	11
Community Briefs	12
Ability motivated	14-15
Mezzo-soprano medic	16
Shoe box Christmases	20-21
Early warning system	24
Meet the Mayors	31
Outstanding volunteers	25
Disability Awareness Fair	26

### Feature

Retirees appreciated	28-29
----------------------	-------

### Sports

Military paralympians	33
On the Bench	34
Athlete of the Week	38

### Happenings

Historic castle	29-30
Get Out	43-44

Classified advertising	(719) 329-5236
Mountaineer editor	(719) 526-4144
Post information	(719) 526-5811
Post weather hotline	(719) 526-0096

## Reset that clock!



Daylight Savings Time officially ends at 2 a.m. Sunday. Set your clock back one hour before you go to bed Saturday.

Word of the month: **TEAMWORK**

## Shaken Baby Syndrome

# Life is fragile

by Rebecca E. Tonn  
Mountaineer staff

Recently a Fort Carson Soldier's child died, allegedly from Shaken Baby Syndrome. The incident is currently under investigation.

Shaken Baby Syndrome is a type of inflicted traumatic brain injury that happens when a baby is shaken. Babies have weak neck muscles and large, heavy heads. Shaking makes the fragile brain bounce back and forth inside the skull and causes bruising, swelling and bleeding, which can lead to permanent, severe brain damage or death, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Web site.

"Usually, when babies are shaken, it's because they won't stop crying. Typically, it is more likely to be done by someone who is not the primary

caregiver (such as) a dad or babysitter," said Jeanne Koss, Soldier and Family Readiness Family Advocacy Program manager for Army Community Service.

An estimated 1,200-1,400 children are treated for SBS in the U.S. each year, and 25-30 percent of these tiny victims die as a result of their injuries, according to the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome Web site.

"(People who do this) do not understand that all it takes is one shake, because (babies and small children) have a soft skull. The younger the baby, the more dangerous (shaking) is for them," said Koss.

These injuries may not be immediately noticeable. Symptoms of shaken baby syndrome include extreme irritability, lethargy, poor

See **Shaken baby** on Page 18

# Tie a red ribbon around the old oak tree

by Douglas Rule

Fort Carson Public Affairs Office

Friday the 13th was an unlucky day for one of my neighbors, but lucky for our neighborhood.

When I arrived home, the lower part of our U-shaped street was blocked off. Police and fire trucks were in front of one of my neighbor's house. Fort Carson's Hazardous Materials truck was also there, assisting off post. Firemen were coming out of the house with breathing masks. Neighbors were all abuzz.

Our neighbor, who fairly well kept to himself,

was arrested. We were told that he was running a meth lab in his house.

At first there was disbelief. How could this happen in our neighborhood? Then there was anger. How could this person endanger us all? Not only was he making illegal drugs, which he could be adding our children to, but there was always the chance of a fire or explosion.

Unfortunately, another neighbor, an adult, knew about this. He had been suckered in and was coming home "drunk." In reality, he had become addicted to methamphetamines, introduced to him by this other neighbor. He would visit his supplier,

partying with him and indulging in his new habit. This adult had been living with his senior-citizen parents, who didn't know why their son was suddenly "drinking" a lot. Now the other neighbors are even angrier.

You read about meth and crack labs in people's houses and apartments, but until it happens in your backyard, you really don't seem to know what it is like.

The only thing one neighbor could say was that it was like being raped: one

should feel safe in their neighborhood. That safety has been violated. The neighbors all feel violated. Now instead of trusting those around us, we are all looking at others with suspicion.

To make matters worse, this meth lab abuts on the school yard of a middle school. This guy, who already showed indiscretion in who he sells to, could literally have gone out his back door and approached our children. Fortunately, this lab is closed for business. Unfortunately others are still around and more will come into being unless it is stopped.

We took this time to talk with our daughter about this. We have done a good job parenting, at least in regards to drug and alcohol abuse. My daughter was upset with this incident, but we are confident that if she ever knew about anything like this in the future, she would come to us or the police.

I was trying to think of something positive to do about this. With red ribbon week coming up, I decided that I would tie red ribbons around the neighborhood. I would offer them to other neighbors who felt likewise. We could take back our neighborhood. We could take a stand and let others know how we felt. We did not want drugs in our neighborhood.

Now I have a greater appreciation of how other neighborhoods feel when drug dealers and labs are found in their neighborhoods. It was not a lesson that I particularly wanted to learn. I only hope that eventually nobody has to have the same experience.



*There's nothing to indicate that this wasn't anything but a normal house in a normal neighborhood, but it was the scene of a recent drug bust.*

## POST TALK: Why is it important to stay off drugs?



*"It's important to stay off of drugs because drugs ruin people's lives by the decisions they make. Drugs are dangerous especially if you're young, and it's really hard to stop. You end up either dead or on the couch doing nothing."*

**Gavin**

*Ms. Secor's seventh grade class  
Carson Middle School*



*"You have better grades, you act more mature, no attitudes toward nobody, you feel good about yourself and you'll be happy because you took the right direction."*

**Shawntavia**

*Ms. Secor's seventh grade class  
Carson Middle School*



*"When you stay off of drugs, you have better job opportunities, you look better and you make smarter decisions."*

**Alyssa**

*Ms. Secor's  
seventh grade class  
Carson Middle School*



*"Because you can always make better choices and decisions. When you're on drugs, you destroy things, your brain isn't right and you can get addicted."*

**Angelique**

*Ms. Secor's seventh  
grade class  
Carson Middle School*



*"Because it ruins your life, you set bad examples for other people and you can get very sick."*

**Chelsey**

*Ms. Secor's  
seventh grade class  
Carson Middle School*

### MOUNTAINEER

#### Commanding General:

Maj. Gen. Robert W. Mixon Jr.

#### Public Affairs Officer:

Lt. Col. David Johnson

#### Chief, Print and Web Communications:

Douglas M. Rule

#### Staff Writers:

Michael J. Pach

Rebecca E. Tonn

#### Happenings:

Nel Lampe

#### Sports Writer:

Walt Johnson

#### Layout/Graphics:

Jeanne Mazerall

This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the *Mountaineer* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army. Printed circulation is 12,000 copies. The editorial content of the *Mountaineer* is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office, Fort Carson, CO 80913-5119. Tel.: (719) 526-4144. The e-mail address is [mountaineereditor@carson.army.mil](mailto:mountaineereditor@carson.army.mil).

The *Mountaineer* is posted on the Internet at <http://public.carson.army.mil/sites/PAO/mountaineer/archives/forms>.

The *Mountaineer* is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. The *Mountaineer* is printed by Colorado Springs Military Newspaper Group, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Carson. It

is published 49 times per year.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Colorado Springs Military Newspaper Group, of the products or services advertised. The printer reserves the right to reject advertisements.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

All correspondence or queries regarding advertising and subscriptions should be directed to Colorado Springs

Military Newspaper Group, 31 E. Platte Avenue, Suite 300, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, phone (719) 634-5905.

The *Mountaineer's* editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office, building 1550, room 2180, Fort Carson, CO 80913-5119, phone (719) 526-4144.

Releases from outside sources are so indicated. The deadline for submissions to the *Mountaineer* is close of business the week before the next issue is published. The *Mountaineer* staff reserves the right to edit submissions for newspaper style, clarity and typographical errors.

Policies and statements reflected in the news and editorial columns represent views of the individual writers and under no circumstances are to be considered those of the Department of the Army.

Reproduction of editorial material is authorized. Please credit accordingly.

# NEWS

## Veterans Affairs starts 'Veterans Pride Initiative'

*Department of Veterans Affairs*

**WASHINGTON** — Leaders of major veterans organizations joined Veterans Affairs Secretary R. James Nicholson Oct. 18 in launching an effort to "kindle a new spark of patriotism" by asking

men and women who have served in the military to wear their medals on Veterans Day.

"We are announcing a 'Veterans Pride Initiative' to remind Americans of the pride and honor in the hearts of those who have served," Nicholson said at a

news conference at VA headquarters. "We expect Americans will see our decorated heroes unite in spirit at ceremonies, in parades and elsewhere as a compelling symbol of courage and sacrifice on Veterans Day, the day we set aside to thank those who served and safeguarded our national security."

The campaign is modeled after a tradition in Australia and New Zealand, countries who honor the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps on April 25 each year, VA officials said. Nicholson said he hopes a U.S. tradition will ensue to emulate this pride in being a veteran and in honoring the nation's veterans.

VA is offering information about the campaign at [www.va.gov/veteranspride](http://www.va.gov/veteranspride), where veterans also can obtain information about how to replace mislaid medals and learn how to confirm the decorations to which they are entitled.

American Legion offers way to thank Soldiers on Veterans Day

*by The American Legion*

With thousands of troops deployed overseas, The American Legion has launched a free, easy way to thank them for their service this Veterans Day.

"In today's computer age, what better way to say 'thank you' to a veteran or a servicemember either here at home or serving thousands of miles away than a musical greeting card with your personalized message that will reach them almost instantaneously," said Paul A. Morin, national commander of The American Legion.

Anyone who has an e-mail address can receive the special cards. Creating the card is quick and easy at The American Legion's Web site, [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), and click on 'Send an E-card.' On the page that comes up next, select Veterans Day.

"As our troops continue to serve in harm's way, as countless thousands before them did in other wars, a message of support and thanks means more to a veteran than you realize," Morin said.

Cards may be sent through Nov. 12.



*Veterans Affairs Secretary R. James Nicholson with leaders of different veterans organizations announced the Veterans Pride Initiative at the Department of Veterans Affairs headquarters in Washington, D.C.*



# New command ready for unique mission

by **Patti Bielling**

*U.S. Army North*

**FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas** — The Army's newest service component command has a dedicated mission unlike any other — defending the homeland and supporting civil authorities during times of crisis.

The U.S. Army North achieved full operational capability Oct. 16 following a year of intense planning, manning, equipping and training.

"We have come a long way," said Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark, U.S. Army North commander. "We conducted a robust training and exercise program and have worked to establish critical relationships with federal, state and local partners in disaster response."

The command is based at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and is the Army service

component of U.S. Northern Command. Its mission includes homeland defense, defense support of civil authorities and theater security cooperation activities with Canada and Mexico.

To conduct day-to-day disaster response planning, the command has aligned a defense coordinating officer and a five-person defense coordinating element with each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency regions.

The command is also able to task-organize up to two task forces that, with augmentation, can become joint task forces and deploy within an operational area to command and control Defense Department forces responding to homeland defense or civil support operations.

In addition, the command oversees the training and readiness of Civil Support Response Teams, National Guard units dedicated to weapons-of-mass destruction and other

disaster response missions.

During the last year of building toward full operating capability, U.S. Army North performed various civil support missions, to include providing support during the 2006 wildfire season and the 2005 hurricane season.

Upcoming events for the command include Golden Guardian, a California emergency response exercise in November, and Vigilant Shield '07, a U.S. Northern Command exercise in December.

The U.S. Army North was conceived in 2004 and traces its lineage to the Fifth U.S. Army. Its creation as the Army service component command was directed as part of Army transformation, a Department of the Army effort to adapt the Army headquarters command structure to execute Military Department Title 10 functions more effectively and efficiently.

# MILITARY

## Diyala police begin construction on new training station

Story and photo by  
Pfc. Paul J. Harris

*3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,  
4th Infantry Division  
Public Affairs Office*

**BAQUBAH, Iraq** — \$5,000 worth of supplies for the new Diyala Police Training Center were delivered Sunday from 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Police Transition Team.

Plans for the station were developed in early 2005, but due to the high volume of improvised explosive devices that insurgents were planting along the road that leads to Khan Bani Saad or Baghdad through Baqubah, the Iraqi Police did not want to move in before adequate force protection measures were taken.

The PTT was able to handle that request by delivering supplies, such as Hesco baskets, concertina wire and sand bags, to aid in the security of the center.

According to Maj. Harvinder Singh, PTT executive officer, \$181,000 has been spent on the Diyala police force this past year by the PTT alone.

"To improve electricity, plumbing, building small projects, generators, whatever else they may need to get something done a bit better," Singh said.

The Diyala police currently has a training facility in downtown Baqubah, but the facility is only able to train 15 policemen a week. When the new center is fully operational, Singh believes the police could train 75-100 personnel a week and house 200 additional officers.

The new center will have multiple ranges for different weapon types, classrooms, a shoot house for training on clearing houses and a simulated vehicle-inspection point.

Singh has seen an improvement in the 10 months he has been associated with the Diyala police and PTT, and this new center, with the training that can be provided there to the peacekeepers, will only make the police better.

"They were able to improve upon their rule of law," Singh said. "When we first got here there were 500 prisoners in their provincial system. (Due process) is a lot faster now. Before prisoners could spend five days to months (in jail). Now they can process a prisoner in less than 48 hours."



*Soldiers from 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Police Transition Team, drop supplies off at the new Diyala Police Training Center. The center is being built by Iraqis with funding from coalition forces.*

# Military briefs

## Miscellaneous

**Trial defense service hours** — TDS hours of operation are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. TDS is closed on Fridays except for appointments and emergencies. Chapters briefings are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m., and Article 15 briefings are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

**New dental clinic hours** — All dental clinics will be open Monday-Friday from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. starting Oct. 30. Sick call hours are from 7 a.m.-9 a.m.

**Hazardous Material Control Center** — The HMCC reopened Oct. 11. All customers that received support prior to July 8 will again get support from this facility.

**Ethics training** — The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will conduct annual ethics training at McMahon Theater on the following dates:

- Nov. 2 at 9 and 10:30 a.m.
- Nov. 3 at 1:30 p.m.
- Nov. 6 at 9:30 a.m.
- Nov. 7 at 1:30 p.m.
- Nov. 8 at 9:30 a.m.

This training is mandatory for all Department of the Army civilians and military personnel and must be completed by Dec. 31. Attendance in one session is required and units containing more than 100 people can arrange to have their own training session conducted. Contact Lorraine Sirois at 526-0538 or [lorraine.sirois@carson.army.mil](mailto:lorraine.sirois@carson.army.mil) for more information.

**Finance in- and out-processing** — The in- and out-processing section of finance has consolidated its operations on the second floor of building 1218. Travel and accessions moved from the first floor of building 1218 to the second floor.

Customers for in- and out-processing should go to room 230 in building 1218, sign in and wait for a technician. Phone numbers remain the same: separations 526-8473/8476/1302; retirement 526-4233/4234/8470; travel 526-9930/0507/0475; accessions 526-8479/8236/4558; and chief of in- and out-processing 526-6230.

**ACAP relocation** — The Army Career and Alumni Program Center has moved to building 1117, room 114. Soldiers should use the southwest entrance. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Veterans Administration relocation** — The VA is now located in building 6220 on the first floor.

**Harmony in Motion auditions** — Harmony in Motion will hold auditions for sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Auditions will be held daily at the Freedom Performing Arts Center, building 1129, from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. For more information visit [www.carson.army.mil/harmony](http://www.carson.army.mil/harmony) or call Sgt. Scott Dickson at 524-3618 or 338-2340.

**Casualty and Mortuary Affairs offices move** — Fort Carson's Casualty and Mortuary Affairs offices have moved to building 1218, rooms 164, 165 and 168. Telephone numbers remain the same.

**TSP Pilot** — Let the Thrift Savings Plan Pilot take the guesswork out of your TSP fund choice decisions (including the new L funds).

TSP Pilot's investment analysts give you optimized fund balance allocations you can plug into your TSP account Web site to maximize returns. A free issue is available.

Please allow a few moments for the page to fully load: <http://TSP-pilot.com>.

**Environmental Health training** — The Environmental Health section of Preventive Medicine offers heat category monitoring training, food service sanitation training and classes on hot and

cold weather injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, hearing conservation and medical threat briefings. For more information on these classes call 526-7922 or 524-2238.

**DPW services** — The Directorate of Public Works is responsible for a wide variety of services on Fort Carson. Services range from repair and maintenance of facilities to equipping units with a sweeper and cleaning motor pools. Listed below are phone numbers and points of contact for services:

- Facility repair/service orders — KIRA service order desk at 526-5345. Use this number for emergencies or routine tasks.
- Refuse/trash — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243 when needing trash containers, trash is overflowing or emergency service is required.
- Facility custodial services — Call Larry Haack at 526-9237 for service needs or to report complaints.
- Elevator maintenance — Call Sharon Gayle at 526-1695.
- Motor pool sludge removal/disposal — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243.
- Repair and utility/self-help — Call Gary Grant at 526-5844. Use this number to obtain self-help tools and equipment or a motorized sweeper.
- Base operations contract Contracting Officer Representative — Call Terry Hagen at 526-9262 for reporting wind damage, snow removal concerns, damaged traffic signs or other facility damage.
- Portable latrines — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243 to request latrines, for service or to report damaged or overturned latrines.

## CIF Hours

**Regular business hours** — The Central Issue Facility has changed its operating hours. The CIF is no longer open on Fridays. Soldiers may make appointments by calling 526-3321. Listed below are the new operating hours.

### In-processing

Monday-Thursday from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

### Initial issues

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

### Partial issues

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

### Cash sales/report of survey

Monday-Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Direct exchange

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

### Partial turn-ins

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

### Full turn-ins

Monday-Thursday 7:30-10:30 a.m.

### Unit issues and turn-ins

Call 526-5512/6477 for approval.

### Hours of operation

**Education Center hours of operation** — The Mountain Post Training and Education Center's hours are as follows:

- **Counselor Support Center** — Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- **Learning Resource Center** — Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and training holidays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support and Advanced Personnel Testing** — Monday-Friday 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:15-4:15 p.m.; closed training holidays.
- **Basic Skills Education Program/Functional Academic Skills Training** — Monday-Thursday

1-4 p.m.; closed training holidays.

- **eArmyU Testing** — Monday-Friday, 12:15-4:15 p.m.; closed training holidays.

**Military Occupational Specialty Library** — Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and training holidays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Legal Assistance hours** — Operating hours for the Legal Assistance Office are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.

**Claims Division hours** — The Claims Division office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and closed federal and training holidays.

To make a claim, Soldiers must attend a mandatory briefing, which is given Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

At the briefing, Soldiers must submit a Department of Defense Form 1840/1840R. Submit completed claims Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**DFAC hours** — Fort Carson dining facilities operate under the following hours:

**Wolf Inn** — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6:30 p.m. (dinner). Weekend hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.

**Butts Army Airfield** — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6:30 p.m. (dinner). This DFAC is closed weekends.

**Patton Inn** — Monday-Friday 7:30-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 5-7 p.m. (dinner). Weekend hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.

**10th SFG** — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6 p.m. (dinner). This DFAC is closed weekends.

## Briefings

**Recruit the Recruiter briefings** — Briefings for anyone interested in becoming an Army recruiter are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Nov. 15 and 17 in building 1117, room 223. More information can be found at [www.usarec.army.mil/hq/recruiter](http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/recruiter), by calling Sgt. 1st Class Neftali Perez at (800) 223-3735 or by contacting your unit career counselor.

**Special Forces briefings** — will be held Wednesdays at building 1217, room 305, from 10-11 a.m., noon-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.

Soldiers must be E4-E6 from any military occupational specialty; have a general technical score of at least 100; be a U.S. citizen; score 229 or higher on the Army Physical Fitness Test; and pass a Special Forces physical. Call 524-1461 or visit the Web site at [www.bragg.army.mil/sorb](http://www.bragg.army.mil/sorb).

**ACAP briefing** — The Army Career and Alumni Program prepreparation briefing is required for all departing servicemembers. Current ACAP policy requires personnel ending time in service to register one year out and retirees two years out. ACAP prepreparation briefings are held Monday-Thursday from 7:30-9 a.m.

Attendees should report to ACAP by 7:15 a.m. to building 1117, room 114. Call 526-1002 to schedule the briefing.

**ETS briefing** — ETS briefings for enlisted personnel will be held the first and third Tuesday of each month until further notice.

Briefing sign-in begins at 7 a.m. at building 1042, room 310. Briefings will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Soldiers must be within 120 days of their ETS but must attend the briefing no later than 30 days prior to their ETS or start date of transition leave.

# New patch symbolizes defense attorney's duties

**by Maj. Wade Faulkner**

*Senior defense counsel,  
Fort Carson*

Army defense attorneys have a new patch to call their own. The shoulder sleeve insignia was unveiled Oct. 4 during a meeting of the Army's top lawyers and defense attorneys here at Fort Carson. They are wearing the new patch.

The new insignia symbolizes the primary duties for attorneys who are defending accused Soldiers at courts-martial. The patch is shaped like a shield to symbolize this defense. Inside the shield are the scales of justice with a sword and the design of the old patch, a star with a circle around it. Since the U.S. Army Trial Defense Service was created in 1980, Army defenders have been wearing a patch that was



not unique to their unit.

When the chief of the Army's Trial Defense Service, Col. Larry Morris, asked for submissions on a new design, his only criteria was that the old patch be incorporated into the new insignia. Morris decided it was important for the approximately 300 Soldiers within TDS to have their own patch symbolizing the

branch's independence when it comes to defending clients. Soldiers facing adverse action need to know that their attorney is there to defend them and not their chain of command.

The Fort Carson TDS office is located in building 6284, on the second floor above the tax center. The office is open during normal duty hours. Soldiers desiring to speak to an attorney can call 526-4563 for an appointment.

## Garrison commander addresses Fort Carson civilian work force

**by Douglas Rule**

*Fort Carson Public Affairs office*

"Fort Carson is the premier installation in the Army because of the hard work you do," said Col. Eugene Smith, Fort Carson garrison commander, to the civilian workforce at McMahon Theater Tuesday and Wednesday.

In order to improve communications, Smith has instituted a quarterly meeting with all garrison employees. Smith noted that he will continue to hold the directorate and GS-11/12 brown bag lunches to get feedback from the work force in general.

Employees were recognized for outstanding service, including for several recent special projects.

Smith briefed the audience on several recent changes, including the change from Installation Management Agency to Installation Management Command, which the garrison falls under. With the new IMCOM, the old IMA will be partnered with the Army Community and Family Support Center, which



*Garrison Commander Col. Eugene Smith briefs the civilian work force on upcoming changes to Fort Carson.*

Army Community Service and Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation fall under, and the Army Environmental Agency. Beginning Nov. 1, Northwest IMA, which Fort Carson formerly fell under, will be replaced by IMCOM West.

Smith also discussed the on-going and future construction plans as well as the movement of the 4th Infantry Division to Fort Carson.

**Right:** Soldiers of the 242nd Explosive Ordnance Detachment defend their Humvee during a simulated ambush.

**Below:** Sgt. 1st Class Shelley Bonner, left, and Lt. Christopher Cole debrief the 242nd OED after a training run.



## Convoy Skills Trainer

**Story and photos by Michael J. Pach**  
*Mountaineer staff*

The Convoy Skills Trainer has been operating in building 1669 since July 2004 and is currently the most used training facility on post. The number trained in the CST has recently surpassed the 10,000 mark and those trained include servicemembers from the Army, Marines, Air Force and National Guard.

The CST was set up as a gateway for Soldiers to receive convoy training before going out onto a live-fire situation for the first time. In the past, combat support and combat service support teams were not trained like combat units

because their positions were usually behind enemy lines. In today's conflicts, there are no enemy lines, so these units need to be prepared. The objectives of this training are to make sure that convoys are doing things properly within their standard operating procedures and upholding convoy integrity.

Battle Command Training Division contractors, Ron Sintas and Ben Herrera, General Dynamics Information Technology, and Tom Gabor of Alion Science and Technology, assembled and integrated the CST with the help of a range

control crew in only two months.

The CST consists of four mock Humvees made to scale from plywood, a computer system that generates combat scenarios, an earth-shaking sound system and real weapons modified to operate on air pressure and shoot lasers. With these elements, the CST trainers can create real-world situations that assist Soldiers in preparing for the unexpected.

The brains of the CST are a computer system called Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation. The biggest benefit of using JCATS is that it allows scenarios to be changed on the fly. The scenarios are developed by trainers Zach Payne and Ron Smith, based on their own personal experiences and the feedback provided by Soldiers returning from the field. If the trainers or the convoy command see that a crew isn't paying attention during a run, they will throw in a surprise, like a road block, land mines or a sniper, to keep them on their toes.

Training runs are designed to be as realistic



**Left:** Ron Smith, left, and Zach Payne set up scenarios in the Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation computer.

## reaches milestone

as possible, so Soldiers are required to wear full field gear just as if they were in an actual combat situation. Soldiers carry wound cards, so if their vehicle is hit during a scenario, medic crews are required to respond appropriately to the injuries listed on the cards. Trainers can also adjust the temperature in the room to simulate the heat of the desert and can perform night operations by changing the video screens to simulate infrared vision.

"We want to get people thinking this is not a joy ride, this is real stuff," said Gabor.

The realism and the endless number of scenarios have made convoy skills training an eye-opening experience for many young Soldiers. Successive runs increase in severity and make the Soldiers think about what they need to do if their convoy commander is taken out, they get ambushed during a maintenance stop or they run across a crowd of civilians on the road. Trainers notice a considerable difference in the way a unit operates between their first and last runs.

"It makes these guys realize they have to figure out a plan," said Sintas. "We're not driving down Kansas any more; we're the bad guys getting shot at."

An area of the facility is set aside for briefing and debriefing units before and after runs. The convoy commander will tell the unit what their objective is and check radios before a run, but the Soldiers will not know exactly what will happen en route to their destination. After each mission, the unit discusses what went right and what went wrong and gets ready for their next run.

"Very few breaks are taken here because once

people get into it, they don't want a break," said Gabor. "They want to get back in and do it again."

Sintas, Herrera, Gabor and BCTC chief, Mike White, wanted to implement a training system that would be beneficial to Soldiers and less costly than the systems being developed by large companies that cost approximately \$1 million per unit. They did not want to wait until the Army decided which system they would purchase, so Gabor traveled to Fort Hood, Texas, to take a look at a single-unit trainer being used there.

After investigating the Fort Hood trainer, it was decided that a similar system could be set up that could integrate four units. Readily available products such as plasma screens and computer monitors were used, and the system was constructed for \$215,000.

The CST has become very popular with military and government dignitaries, and the training crew has received a lot of favorable comments from Soldiers who have returned from combat, but the biggest reward they receive is the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference.

"We truly feel this (the training) is saving lives," said Payne.

The vehicles in the CST can be modified in JCATS to look like trucks or tanks so truck and tank units can be accommodated. Units that set up training receive a compact disc that contains convoy leader training handbooks and Operation Iraqi Freedom smart cards. Any units interested in scheduling convoy skills training for a full or half day can call 524-4718.



**Above:** Vehicle commander, Spc. Carlos Cruz, checks out the map on the see-all screen.

**Left:** Spc. Edward Jackson waits for medics during a training run.



# Reflections on a tour in Iraq

Story and photo by  
Pfc. Paul J. Harris

*3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,  
4th Infantry Division  
Public Affairs Office*

**BAQUBAH, Iraq**—"I was not anticipating working seven days a week, 13 hours a day for a year. That takes a toll on anyone," said Lt. Col. John Shawkins, chief of current operations, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Shawkins has been stationed overseas twice before, to Korea, but this was his first time to a combat environment.

"You cannot experience or understand the heat until you are in 130 degree heat. That was probably one of the biggest surprises," Shawkins said. "The living conditions are a bit better than I expected."

Soldiers now, unlike their comrades in Operation Iraqi Freedom I, have air conditioned housing, hot showers and hot chow.

Shawkins has been a tank commander and an Apache pilot before coming to the Striker Brigade at Fort Carson. He runs the Tactical Operations Center, which is like a nerve cell that synchronizes and controls the actions of the brigade's Soldiers. When a call for

action comes in from the field, instantly the TOC comes alive and Shawkins needs answers to questions right away like: How many people are there? Are they in contact? Are there any casualties? What do we have to do to fix this? Do we need a medical evacuation?

"You can go days and days and it is the same routine and then some days you walk into pandemonium and you spend the next 13 hours fighting the bad guys," Shawkins said.

He did not want to sit in the TOC for the entire deployment so he took a seven-week assignment at Krikush Military Training Base, which is close to the Iranian border. The assignment enabled him to go out on patrols with the line units and get a first hand look at the Soldiers fighting the insurgents.

"This war is a 19-year-olds' war, like every war. In a sense that it is these young American kids, who you may have thought couldn't have done it three, four, five years ago, but they are out there doing incredible things every day," Shawkins said.

"They patrol up and down the mean streets of Baqubah, they remove (improvised explosive devices), they meet local sheiks, they pass out supplies, they provide security, they are the rub-

ber where it hits the road and they are playing a part in the future of Iraq."

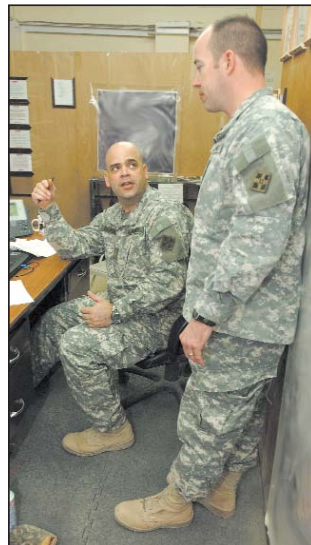
Shawkins was recently promoted to lieutenant colonel, but moving up the rank ladder was never the main goal for joining the military straight out of high school.

"My goal was to be a company commander; I never thought I was going to be in (the military) twenty years," Shawkins said.

He met his wife when he was a freshman at West Virginia State University. They have been together ever since. He said the toughest thing about this deployment has been the time apart from his wife.

As his time left in this deployment dwindles, he is looking forward to returning to see family and friends and do some skiing.

"I would not have gotten out of this deployment for anything because it was really important for me to come over here and do my duty. It is a great culmination of a 20-year career to come over here and serve," Shawkins said. "This tour over here is a part of history and I do not know where the whole strategic endeavor for the U.S. will end up. (However) I am very proud to be a part of it."



*Lt. Col. John Shawkins, seated, and Maj. Bobby Haskin, both from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, discuss the events of the day during a shift change in the Tactical Operations Center at Forward Operating Base Warhorse near Baqubah, Iraq.*

# COMMUNITY

## Know post's winter weather plan

by **Nel Lampe**  
Mountaineer staff

Just as Pikes Peak area residents were getting used to warm autumn days, they got a wake up call last week: winter weather paid a short visit to the area. Some commuters Tuesday morning had ice or snow to scrape off their windshields before going to work. Heavy snow fell at higher altitudes, such as Woodland Park, Cripple Creek and snow resorts.

This is, after all, Colorado and at more than 6,000 feet altitude, snow will eventually come to Fort Carson.

Oftentimes the snows are predicted by local weather forecasters, but sometimes the blizzards are not.

Although last year's winter was relatively mild, it's difficult to predict how severe this winter might be.

When some October days reach 80 degrees, it's hard to imagine this month may also bring snowfall — even blizzards. For instance, a predicted snowfall in late October 1997 turned into an unpredicted blizzard with 40 mph winds, subzero weather and blinding snowstorms. Accumulation reached about 20 inches; streets were impassable. The airport closed. People were stranded on snow-clogged streets. Five local people died in weather-related incidents, including a Fort Carson Soldier. Colorado's governor, Roy Romer, called the post's commanding general and asked for help. About 200 Soldiers and 60 Army Humvees with chain-wrapped tires augmented state and city officials for the next two days. Soldiers, battling fatigue, bitter cold temperatures and snowdrifts, rescued nearly 100 people.

The Mountain Post has a plan in place to avoid putting Soldiers and employees at risk during such a blizzard.

In the event heavy snowfall begins falling during the night, several

people at Fort Carson monitor weather and road conditions.

Emergency Operations Center personnel monitor Colorado State Patrol and the National Weather Service reports. About 2 or 3 a.m., Garrison Commander Colonel Eugene Smith is given EOC assessment and recommendations regarding weather conditions. If Smith decides to have delayed reporting or curtailment of operations, EOC notifies commanders and first sergeants, Fountain-Fort Carson School District and Public Affairs.

Public Affairs on call representative contacts area television and radio stations of the delay decision made by the garrison commander.

Usually, the decision is a one- or two-hour delay in reporting for duty. Road crews will clear roads and parking lots or spread sand during that delay, so Soldiers and employees should honor the reporting delay. The two-hour delay isn't meant for extra sleeping time, but to dig out the car or shovel the driveway.

Sometimes broadcasters use the term "essential" or "non-essential" when referring to people who should or should not report to duty.

Essential personnel refers to people designated as critical to operation of the post, such as fire and police operations, snow removal, dining facilities, medical and command and control personnel. Employees who are deemed essential should be aware they are designated essential and should check with a supervisor or commander if unsure about their status.

Non-essential employees would be everyone who is not "essential."

In addition to watching local TV stations or listening to radio stations, anxious employees can call the weather hotline, 526-0096, which should be updated by 5 a.m. A recording gives current road conditions.

There are three possible road conditions: green, amber and red.

● green road conditions mean that

roads are safe to travel

- amber road conditions mean that unnecessary travel should be avoided. Moderately hazardous road conditions exist, but Soldiers and employees should report for duty.
- red road conditions means roads are icy or deeply covered in snow. Only mission-essential personnel should be traveling.

In extreme weather conditions, the post may be closed. In that case, Soldiers and employees will not report for duty that day. It will be the Soldiers' and employees' responsibility to keep updated by contacting their chain of command or listening or watching for updates on local television or radio stations.

"Once notified by Garrison Operations that the garrison commander has authorized late reporting or closing, Public Affairs notifies local television and radio stations. The stations use that information in their broadcasts or run a "crawl" along the bottom of the screen. Fort Carson information about reporting for duty should be available on major radio stations and local television stations before 6 a.m.," said Dee McNutt, Public Affairs, Media Relations Chief.

When a storm develops during the daytime, early release may be authorized by the garrison commander. Notification will be made to employees and Soldiers through duty sections through the chain of command.

To safely manage the flow of traffic, personnel will be released in three "waves":

1. Personnel released first will be those who reside 15 miles or more from Fort Carson.
2. The second wave will be released half an hour after the first wave, and will include those who reside 5-15 miles off post.
3. The third wave release will be an hour after the first, and will include all other employees and Soldiers.

### Road condition phone numbers

(courtesy Colorado AAA)

<b>Alabama</b>	(334) 242-4378
<b>Arizona</b>	(602) 861-9400 ext. 7623
<b>Arkansas</b>	(501) 569-2374
<b>California</b>	(916) 445-7623
<b>Colorado</b>	(303) 639-1234
<b>Connecticut</b>	(800) 443-6817
<b>Delaware</b>	(800) 652-5600
<b>Florida</b>	No source yet
<b>Georgia</b>	(404) 656-5267
<b>Illinois</b>	(312) 368-4636
<b>Indiana (North)</b>	(317) 232-8300
<b>Indiana (South)</b>	(317) 232-8298
<b>Iowa</b>	(515) 288-1047
<b>Kansas</b>	(800) 585-7623
<b>Kentucky</b>	(502) 564-4556
<b>Louisiana</b>	(504) 379-1541
<b>Maryland</b>	(800) 323-6742
<b>Michigan</b>	No source yet
<b>Minnesota</b>	(800) 542-0220
<b>Mississippi</b>	(601) 987-1212
<b>Missouri</b>	No source yet
<b>Montana</b>	(800) 332-6171
<b>Nebraska</b>	(402) 479-4512
<b>New Jersey</b>	(908) 247-0900
<b>New Mexico</b>	(800) 432-4269
<b>Nevada</b>	(702) 486-3116
<b>New York</b>	(800) 847-8929
<b>North Carolina</b>	(919) 549-5100
<b>North Dakota</b>	(800) 472-2686
<b>Ohio</b>	(614) 466-7170
<b>Oklahoma</b>	(405) 425-2385
<b>Oregon</b>	(503) 889-3999
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	(800) 331-3414
<b>Rhode Island</b>	(401) 277-2468
<b>South Carolina</b>	(803) 896-9621
<b>South Dakota</b>	(605) 773-3536
<b>Tennessee</b>	(800) 858-6349
<b>Texas</b>	(800) 452-9292
<b>Utah</b>	(801) 964-6000
<b>Virginia</b>	(800) 367-7623
<b>Washington</b>	(206) 434-7277
<b>West Virginia</b>	(304) 558-2889
<b>Wisconsin</b>	(800) 762-3947
<b>Wyoming</b>	(307) 635-9966

### Emergency kit

Gloves, hat, jacket  
Flashlight, batteries  
First aid kit  
Water



Blanket or sleeping bag  
Nonperishable food, such as energy or candy bars, nuts  
Optional: Spare battery or car charger for cell phone

### Prepare for winter weather by making sure your vehicle is:

Mechanically sound  
Radiator has adequate antifreeze protection level  
Tires are properly inflated and appropriate for winter driving  
Windshield wipers are replaced if necessary  
Windshield washer reservoirs are filled  
Battery is in good condition  
Gas tank is filled

### Have in your car:

Sand or kitty litter  
Spare tire, jack  
Jumper cables  
Shovel



### Weather hotline: 526-0096

green road conditions mean that it is safe to travel

amber road conditions mean that unnecessary travel should be avoided. Moderately hazardous road conditions exist, but Soldiers and employees should report for duty

red road conditions means roads are icy or deeply covered in snow. Only mission-essential personnel should be traveling

# Community briefs

## Miscellaneous

### Native American Heritage Month

**celebration** — Fort Carson Equal Opportunity Office and the 43rd Area Support Group sponsor the Mountain Post observance, 'A Warrior Tradition ... Contributing to Our Nation's Freedom,' Thursday from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Waller Fitness Center. Guest speaker will be Carrie Howell of the Denver Indian Family Resource Center. The Seven Falls Indian Dancers will perform and samples of Native American foods will be available.

**Motion for Moms** — A low-impact exercise class for pregnant and post-partum women, sponsored by Evans Army Community Hospital. Every Tuesday and Thursday, from 9-10 a.m., at the Garcia Fitness Center. Call Rhonda Tulensa at 526-7030 for registration and information.

**Bootcamp for New Dads** — Preparing fathers and fathers-to-be for the challenges and joys of fatherhood. An exciting program developed and taught by dads; it is offered the first three Wednesdays of each month, from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at the Family University, building 1161.

The first module is "Becoming a dad;" the second is "Caring for baby and hands-on training;" the third is "Caring for mom and graduation." Bring your own lunch. For more information call 526-4590.

**Fort Carson community blood drive** — The Bonfils mobile bus will be at the main Fort Carson Post Exchange, Nov. 11 from noon-4 p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Bonfils appointment center at (800) 750-4482, extension 1.

**No physical training zone** — The area under construction, north of Ranges 69 and 5, should not be used for any training at any time. Construction is under way. The area is bracketed to the north by Khe Sahn Street, to the east by Barkeley Avenue, and to the west by Brown Road, Titus Boulevard and Specker Avenue.

**Celebrate Veterans Day** — with the Falcon Wanderers of Colorado Springs. They will host a five-k and a 10-k Volksmarch, Nov. 11. The route starts and ends at the Police Operations Center, corner of S. Nevada Avenue and Rio Grande. Register anytime between 8:30 a.m. and noon and walk at your own pace. Dogs and children welcome. Participants will receive a Veterans Day commemorative patch. For more information call 648-9015, 499-8160 or 667-5662.

**Child and Youth Services 2006 Harvest Fest** — will be Tuesday from 4-6 p.m., at the Fort Carson Youth Center, building 5950, on Ware Street. Admission is free. CYS will offer carnival games, arts and crafts, prizes, treats and a cake walk. Call 526-2680 for more information.

**Fort Carson fire department** — will conduct a prescribed burn program, in accordance with permits issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and in coordination with the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment, continuing into December, weather permitting.

For more information contact the Fort Carson Public Affairs Office at 526-1264/4113. After hours contact the 24-hour Emergency Operations Center at 526-5500 and ask for the on-call public affairs officer.

**Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management** — Building 6287, near Prussman and Mekong, is being dismantled and demolished and will continue until Dec. 31. Stay out of the area and do not park within 100 feet of the building. Contact Eldon Granger at 526-1687 for further

information.

**Child and Youth Services, Caring Saturdays** — Free child care for families of deployed Soldiers is offered the first and third Saturday of each month, from noon to 7 p.m., in the East Child Development Center, building 6058. Families must bring a copy of their sponsor's deployment orders and their child's up-to-date immunization record. For reservations call 524-4218. For further information call 526-1101.

**Hallelujah Fun Night** — Fun, food and frolic at the Fort Carson Youth Center, building 5950, Sunday 5-7 p.m. For children ages 2-92. No scary costumes, please. Donations of candy can be taken to Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Eighty-five volunteers are still needed to assist with games. Sponsored by Soldiers' Memorial Chapel and Protestant Women of the Chapel. Call 393-2491 or e-mail [simsent02@hotmail.com](mailto:simsent02@hotmail.com) for more information.

**Thrift Savings Plan maximum contributions** — The Internal Revenue Service's 2006 annual TSP limit is \$15,000. Check your TSP year-to-date contributions under the "Deductions" section of your Leave and Earnings Statement. The TSP Fact Sheet, "Annual Limits on Elective Deferrals," describes the limits in detail and how they affect TSP contributions for Federal Employees Retirement System employees. Go to [www.tsp.gov/forms/oc91-13w.pdf](http://www.tsp.gov/forms/oc91-13w.pdf) or [www.abc.army.mil](http://www.abc.army.mil) or call Army Benefits Center, toll free at (877) 276-9287 for further information. Numbers for overseas or hearing impaired customers can be found at [www.abc.army.mil/Information/ABCGeneral/Information/ABCMenu.htm](http://www.abc.army.mil/Information/ABCGeneral/Information/ABCMenu.htm).

**An Adoption Fair** — will be held Nov. 14 at Armed Services YMCA, 2190 Jet Wing Drive, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Topics will include: local and infant open adoption, foster adoption, interstate adoptions, international adoptions services, financial/military information, adoption parent forum.

For more information and to sign up by Nov. 9, call: Peterson Air Force Base at 556-6141, Schriever Air Force Base at 567-9380, United States Air Force Academy at 333-3444 or Fort Carson's Army Community Service at 526-4590.

**Evans Army Community Hospital** — The correspondence division of the Patient Administration Department will be closing Thursdays from noon to 6 p.m. Release of information requests will not be taken during this time. This will create faster turn-around time for copies of records.

**Pikes Peak Region Peace Officers' Memorial** — Donations are needed to build a memorial in America the Beautiful Park to honor local police officers who have made, and who will make, the ultimate sacrifice. This includes Department of the Army Police and Military Police, from Fort Carson. For more information call 524-4411/4413/4415 or 526-2053.

**Career fair** — The Employment Readiness Program hosts a career fair today from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Special Events Center, building 1829. This event will focus on assisting military spouses, family members, transitioning service members, National Guard, Reservists and retirees in finding employment. Bring a resume. For more information call Army Community Service at 526-4590.

**Make a Difference Day** — Fort Carson will participate in Make a Difference Day Saturday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. with general beautification of the three reservoirs on Fort Carson. To register visit [www.volunteerpikespeak.org/volunteer/news/make-a-difference](http://www.volunteerpikespeak.org/volunteer/news/make-a-difference) or contact Army Community Service at 526-4590 for more information.

**Ongoing road closures** — Portions of Specker Avenue and Titus Boulevard will be closed until April. Questions about the closure or disruption of



**Army Community Service**  
Family Readiness Center, Bldg 1526  
TEL: (719) 526-4590

**Celebrate the Month of the Military Family!**

# Families First



**Friday, 17 November / 5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.**  
**Armed Services YMCA (2190 Jet Wing Drive)**

**\*FREE:** Thanksgiving meal, a children's magic show & door prizes. Limited spaces, call (719) 622-9622. A military partnership event sponsored by: Fort Carson Army Community Service, Peterson Air Force Base Family Support Center, Schriever Air Force Base Family Support Center, USAFA Family Support Center and the Armed Forces YMCA.

*"Our families and communities are what make our Army and this country strong."*  
Kenneth O. Preston (Sergeant Major of the Army)

traffic along Butts Road can be addressed to Fort Carson's Directorate of Public Works Traffic Engineer, Rick Orphan, at 526-9267 or Fort Carson's Army Corps of Engineers Transformation Resident Office, Maj. John Hudson, at 526-4974.

**Construction warnings**—Repaving of the parking lot between buildings 6222 and 6236 and the connecting driveway began Tuesday and will continue, weather permitting, for about three weeks.

Patrons are reminded that ignoring barriers or encroaching on the contractor's work site may result in ticketing and towing.

Repaving of the large parking lot south of buildings 1010-1013 is projected to begin Monday to continue for about 28 days, weather permitting.

Patrons are reminded that during construction, the parking lots are the property of the contractor and detour signs should be honored and alternate parking spaces should be used.

**Claims against the estate** — Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Col. Barton K. George, deceased, should contact Maj. Tracey M. Wilson at 526-7304.

Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Staff Sgt. Ryan Haupt, deceased, should contact 2nd Lt. Nick Piergallini at (610) 217-7241.

Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Sgt. Norman Taylor, deceased, should contact 2nd Lt. Aaron Earls at (270) 505-0107.



## Disability Awareness Month

# Fort Carson employees motivated by their abilities

Story and photos by Rebecca E. Tonn

*Mountaineer staff*

**Joe Lujan**, unit intramural coordinator for the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, stands on the sidelines of a flag football game, conferring with the referee and answering questions for the Soldiers.

Sports are one of his passions.

Lujan worked in the recreation department of the Youth Conservation Corps during his senior year of high school. And for 19 years he ran the intramural program at Fitzsimons Army Hospital before Fitzsimons was deactivated.

"I had 19 years invested, and I didn't want it to go to waste. But at the same time, my parents were reluctant to ship me out, if you will, because I've been under their wings all my life," Lujan said.

Lujan was born with cerebral palsy, so, perhaps his parents' reluctance is understandable. But, he was selected by the Civil Service Priority Placement Program to work at Fort Carson in Child and Youth Services — so he moved from his parents' home in Denver to Colorado Springs in 1996. Six months after starting at CYS, he was transferred to DMWR — back to the sports he loves.

Lujan schedules and organizes the year-round intramural sports for Fort Carson: volleyball, basketball, bowling, soccer, softball, golf, cross country and flag football. He drives his red Toyota Tacoma to the sports complex and monitors officials

and players during the games.

October is Disability Awareness Month, but we still have a lack of accessibility here, Lujan said. "Every gym has a handicapped ramp and bathroom stalls, but none of the gyms have automatic (front) doors. (Some) people have to have a chaperone, or they have to wait for somebody (to come along and) open the door," he said.

In the last few years, his muscles have become much stiffer. He is more mobile on some days than others and uses a cane to assist with balance. "The doctors have me on a bunch of medications, but they are not working to my satisfaction. It's frustrating," Lujan said.

His limitations may slow him down, but they don't stop him from working or playing. "Basically, I'm pretty independent," said Lujan. "I go to Denver a lot on the weekends — to get out of Dodge," he said, with a grin.



Joe Lujan, center, monitoring the Meddac vs. 1st Mob flag football game, Oct. 12.

Joe Lujan



**Trish Aaron**, receptionist for the Department of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, sits at her desk in the lobby of building 1217, tracking down a phone number on the computer for a customer.

A co-worker walks by and Trish greets him by name in her cheerful voice and flashes one of her warm smiles. It seems like a typical day at the office and it is, but Trish is visually impaired and recognizes customers and co-workers by voice. Actually, she recognizes their footsteps or the jingle of keys in their pockets, long before they speak.

She enjoys her job and can relate to a variety of people and cultures, because of being an Army brat and living in different countries.

"People like to hear a live person (answer the phone). They don't like to get a recording. If I don't have the information for them, I will research it and call them back," said Aaron.

Her computer has JAWS for Windows, a program which reads the screen to her, as she navigates with the arrow buttons. Her visual impairment has caused her to

sharpen her memorization skills and her hearing.

"I blow people away when they ask me for a phone number, and I rattle it off," Aaron said.

Each week-day morning she calls Metro Mobility to verify when the bus will arrive at her home. She prides herself on arriving punctually to work, but she is not too proud to ask for help if she needs it. Sometimes she calls a co-worker and says "I need your eyes for a minute (when the computer program cannot access certain links). ... Occasionally, my favorite pen will roll under some paper. I need a talking pen (to say) 'I'm right here,'" she said.

Aaron weighed all of two pounds at birth, due to cerebral palsy, and she spent the first three months of her life in an incubator. "I was just a tiny little thing, with a head full of curly hair," she said. "I've been dealing with it (cerebral palsy) all my life."

In 1969, she was 4-years old when her dad went to Vietnam. She told him, "I'll be walking when you get back." And sure enough, she was. Her mom told her to

remove "I can't" from her vocabulary. "When I say I'm going to do something—I do it. It may take me longer, but I do it," she said.

She still does physical therapy at home. Even though she is tired after a day of work, she knows that therapy is necessary to keep her muscles from getting tight. Her two dogs, a toy poodle, Gigi, and a border collie/Labrador mix, Missy, force her to stay active; they insist that she repeatedly throw the ball down the stairs for them.

Aaron takes things in stride, including the occasional falls that are a part of having cerebral

palsy. "Sometimes that ground just walks up and smacks me. People ask if I'm OK, and I say 'yes, but I'm embarrassed as heck,'" she said. Some of the Metro Mobility drivers walk her to the door at work and carry her back pack, and she appreciates the assistance.

Aaron, in turn, likes to help others. "I'm happy to help people, and I love to be busy. I don't want to just sit there. I train people how to do things on the computer — people here (at work) and my mom and dad," she said. And if you visit the DMWR lobby,



*Trish Aaron multitasking during a typical day at work.*

# Mezzo-soprano is musical medic

Story and photo by

Michael J. Pach

*Mountaineer staff*

Spc. Megan Crabtree has been in the Army for four years and has been singing with Fort Carson's Harmony in Motion since March. Crabtree is often a featured soloist in Harmony in Motion performances and it is her voice that is heard singing the national anthem at memorial services.

How does Crabtree feel about being part of Harmony in Motion?

"I love it," said Crabtree. "My gift from God is my voice, and to do that (sing) in the Army is awesome. To do that (sing) for people on post and those who support us is a great opportunity."

Crabtree started singing at the age of 10 as a contestant in a talent show. She joined the choir in middle school and was accepted into the National Children's Choir in Minneapolis, at 14. She was involved with musical theater in middle school and high school and became a member of the Wyoming State Choir in 1999. Crabtree went on to study musical theater at Point Park College in Pittsburg, from 1999-2002 and then joined the Army.

Crabtree's Army career started in Korea where she served as a medic with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. She then spent a year in Iraq working in a medical clinic, where she treated Soldiers and contracted civilians on post, as well as

enemy prisoners of war. She describes her time in Iraq as very memorable.

"It was an interesting experience. I learned a lot and had awesome doctors to work with," said Crabtree. "It was scary sometimes and felt sometimes like we were missionaries."

Crabtree has been married for 18 months to Sgt. James Crabtree, who is also a medic with the 2nd BCT and was recently deployed to Iraq for one year as a field medic. Crabtree and her husband met during advanced individual training at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, and transferred to Fort Carson shortly after getting married.

Born in Rock Springs, Wyo., Crabtree comes from a military family. Her brother recently finished his Army career, her father is a retired Marine and her step-father served in the Navy.

Crabtree's most memorable moment with Harmony in Motion came while singing country songs and solos during a farewell party in Monument for Col. Michael Resty, former Fort Carson garrison commander. It was at this time that she felt she was in the right place in her Army career.

Crabtree will be leaving



*Spc. Megan Crabtree, standing, practices a song while accompanied on piano by Sgt. Scott Dickson.*

the Army in January and plans to stay in the area while her husband continues to serve at Fort Carson. She also hopes to complete her college degree.

Sgt. Scott Dickson, Harmony in Motion's noncommissioned officer-in-charge, has high praise for Crabtree.

"Spc. Crabtree's work ethic and professionalism set the standard by which all the other Soldiers in Harmony in Motion are judged," said Dickson.

A graphic featuring a large black treble clef on the left. To its right is a blue trapezoidal shape with a white border. Inside this shape, the words "Singers needed" are written in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The background of the entire graphic is white.

Harmony in Motion is currently in a time of transition and is seeking singers. The group will be holding open auditions to fill a number of vacancies. Soldiers interested in singing with the group should contact Sgt. Scott Dickson at 524-3618, 338-2340 or by e-mail at [scott.d.dickson@us.army.mil](mailto:scott.d.dickson@us.army.mil). More information can be found on the Web site at [www.carson.army.mil/harmony](http://www.carson.army.mil/harmony). Applicants merely need to express a love of music and singing. The ability to read music is a plus but not a requirement.

## Shaken baby

From Page 1

feeding, breathing problems, convulsions, vomiting, and pale or bluish skin. Shaken baby injuries usually occur in children younger than 2 years old, but may be seen in children up to the age of 5, according to NINDS.

ACS offers Boot Camp for New Dads: it is a class developed and taught by dads and is offered monthly during lunch, once a week for three weeks. ACS also offers a free packet to parents, with pamphlets on how to ease the stresses of parenting. It includes a DVD on SBS and a "baby-go-to-sleep" CD.

"It's horrible that it takes something awful like this (alleged incident) to happen (to generate awareness)," Koss said.

For more information on SBS, contact Koss at 526-4590 or Jeanne.Koss@carson.army.mil or visit these Web sites: [www.dontshake.com](http://www.dontshake.com) and [www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/shakenbaby/shakenbaby.htm](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/shakenbaby/shakenbaby.htm)

The next Boot Camp for New Dads class begins Nov. 1, from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., at the Family University, building 1161. For more information call ACS at 526-4590.



Photo by Michael J. Pach

## Sing out against drugs

*The Carson Middle School choir entertains guests at Carson Middle School Oct. 23 during the Red Ribbon Week ribbon-cutting ceremony. Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign designed to keep children off drugs and runs Oct. 23-31. A variety of events are scheduled on post, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving will have an information booth at the Fort Carson Post Exchange from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. each day of the campaign.*



# Recipients assist in shoe box project

Story and photo by Nel Lampe

*Mountaineer staff*

Her eyes light up and she smiles when she remembers the shoe box she received 16 years ago as a 9-year old living in the Republic of Georgia. Ina Weaver, now 25, still remembers what was in the box.

There was a teddy bear, a pink pin and a pink necklace, a box of crayons and a pencil sharpener.

"It was so colorful for a child who lived in a black and white world," she said.

She and her sister, who was 5 years old, each got a box. The shoe boxes had arrived at the church that Weaver's grandmother attended.

"We thought 'so many presents from somebody who didn't know us.' It made me feel that somebody cared."

Operation Christmas Child, which distributes shoe boxes filled with gifts, has now come full circle as she and other members of Soldiers' Memorial Chapel participate in the shoe box drive. Members of all Fort Carson chapels are preparing shoe boxes.

There's another Soldiers' Chapel member who knows first hand about the shoe boxes.

Doug Tata lived on the island of American Samoa when it was devastated by a hurricane when he was 9 or 10 years old.

"I remember it as if it was yesterday," Tata said. "(I was) standing in line as shoe boxes full of goodies were passed out. I excitedly opened mine to find candies, marbles and a few small toys.

"I've never forgotten it and will forever thank the countries that took time to bring happiness to a child during a time of stress," Tata said.

Tata and Weaver talked fondly about their memories of their shoe box as they assembled prefabricated shoe boxes for the drive.

"We carried our marbles everywhere," Tata said, speaking of his friends who also received boxes. "We played marbles anywhere."

Weaver said she wore the pink pin all the time. She and her sister used the crayons very carefully, so as to not wear them out.

Chap. (Lt. Col.) David Pollok, of Healer Chapel, said that those who pack a box are asked to donate \$7 to help pay for shipping. The boxes will be collected Nov. 12 at chapel morning services.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of "Samaritan's Purse." Franklin Graham is president of the organization.

Last year more than 7 million children were recipients of shoe boxes. Shoe boxes this year are destined to nearly 100 countries around the world. Although the chapels don't know where their boxes will be sent, but will find out before Christmas which country their boxes were sent to.

Mary Jo Love is a volunteer at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. She is overseeing the project, taking over from Bonnie Glad, whose family is

being transferred to another assignment.

Love said anyone can pack a shoe box gift and take it to any post chapel. Use an empty shoe box or a plastic shoe storage box from a store. She said the children really like the plastic shoe boxes because they can keep personal belongings in them. Because of the countries or circumstances the children live in, a cardboard box may become soggy or torn. Wrapping the box is not necessary, but if the box is

See **Shoe box** on Page 21



*Ina Weaver, left, and Doug Tata assemble shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Both Weaver and Tata received Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes when they were children.*



## Shoe box

From Page 20

wrapped, the lid must be wrapped separately so the box's contents may be inspected. Inappropriate items will be removed and replaced before the boxes are shipped. Removed items will be given to charity.

Suggested items to pack are small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals and toys. School supplies, picture books, solar calculators, markers, paper pads or stickers are suggested. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, washcloth and combs are welcomed. Only hard candies, double-bagged, are suggested. Hair accessories, watches, sunglasses and flashlights are treasured items by recipients.

Do not include chocolate or food, vitamins or other medications. Do not include toy or real guns or knives or aerosol cans. Used items should not be included.

Mark the box as appropriate for a boy or girl and the appropriate age.

Love said donors can include a small family picture and a note if they choose.

Once the box is filled, place a large rubber band around the box to secure the lid and drop it off at one of the chapels Nov. 12.

Operation Christmas Child has been going on since 1993. Love said Fort Carson chapels have been participating for more than five years.

She looks forward to collection day, as she expects hundreds of shoe boxes will be collected at post chapels, hundreds of boxes that will soon be on their way to children around the world — boxes to bring delight and happiness to children.

# My thoughts as I get ready to go home

**Chap. (Maj.) Rory Rodriguez**

*3-29 Field Artillery  
"Pacesetters" chaplain*

As I contemplate getting ready to go home, it is wonderful to reflect and realize that my time here in Iraq is coming to a close. I reflect on what God has done for me and our unit, my relationships with the Soldiers and chaplains, and what I want to do when I get back.

Regarding what God has done for us Pacesetters as we have performed our missions, I think about how God has marvelously delivered us from serious harm countless times. Although some would attribute these near misses as being "lucky," I would like to believe that God's mercy and grace have preserved us time and time again. I recall that in my own experience of traveling the Iraqi roads God's protective hand was upon me and those with whom I was traveling. As I hear from others their tales of escaping possible

injury and death, I marvel at God's goodness to us. All of these deliverances have strengthened my faith and relationship in God.

Regarding my relationships with the Soldiers, I have come to know many of them personally. My spirit is burdened for them as they are so young and have to deal with so many personal issues that affect them, and yet they still drive on to accomplish their responsibilities. Many of them have received Red Cross messages and had to go on emergency leave and come back to their work. I think about how this deployment has affected their relationships with their spouse and children. I think about how they really enjoyed their leave to be with their families and how now they are looking forward to returning home. My relationship with these young men and women is truly special to me and I am thankful to God that he has allowed me to be a part of their lives during this deployment. Seeing other chap-

lains within my own brigade combat team at other locations was truly refreshing to my spirit. It takes a chaplain to understand what another chaplain goes through. I thank God for each one of them and their ministries to their Soldiers who have undergone hardships while deployed.

Lastly, as I think about getting ready to go home, I realize the blessings of God upon my life over these many months. God has enabled me to accomplish some important goals that I had set as the year began over here. Like others in our unit, I long to be at Colorado for the holidays — for Thanksgiving and being in a snowy Christmas. I can only imagine seeing those beautiful, majestic mountains and smell the perfumed trees. And of course, eat at my favorite restaurants and the delight of being able to buy what I need and want during the holiday season.

All in all this has been a good year for me and I am truly thankful for God's abundant blessings.

## Chapel

### All Saints Day Catholic Mass—Soldiers'

Memorial Chapel will hold mass on Nov. 1 at noon and 6 p.m. for this holy day.

### PWOC fall studies—Protestant Women of the

Chapel meet Tuesdays from 9-11:30 a.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Child care is provided free at the hourly day care center. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Fall studies are under way and include several selections. Contact Amy West for information on child care at 393-1390. For information on PWOC call Barb Styles at 598-0422. A special room for home-schooled children is also offered.

### "Wilderness Trail" Protestant Sunday School

Classes take on a new theme beginning Sunday. With the theme of "Respect," classes will study Bible stories while having fun with music and games. Classes for all ages are each Sunday 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel, building 1500. This year's program is musical, energetic and fast paced. Bible classes for adults are also each Sunday. Come join in the fun.

**Hallelujah fun night is Oct. 29, 5-7 p.m.** at building 5950, the Youth Center, for children ages 2-92. There'll be fun, games and prizes as well as food and frolic. Eighty-five volunteers are needed to run games. Call 393-2491 or e-mail: [simsent02@hotmail.com](mailto:simsent02@hotmail.com) for more information.

Donations of candy needed. Drop off at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Please, no scary costumes.

**Christmas Around the World**—The Protestant Sunday School will begin preparing for a special Christmas event—Christmas Around the World. Children are needed for many roles. Signups Sunday after Sunday School or service.

## Chapel Schedule

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

Day	Time	Service	Chapel	Location	Contact Person
Mon., Wed., Fri.	noon	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/526-7412
Tues., Thurs.	noon	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Saturday	5 p.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	CRE	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/576-7412
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Tuesday	7 p.m.	RCIA	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Saturday	4 p.m.	Reconciliation	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769

### PROTESTANT

Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Chap. Cartee/526-7387
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant Communion	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Mitchell/650-8042
Sunday	11 a.m.	Protestant	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Nicholas/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Prot./Gospel	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Borden/526-4206
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Borden/526-4206
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Dr. Scheck/526-5626
Tuesday	9 a.m.	PWOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Nicholas/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Contemporary	Veterans'	Magrath & Titus	Chap. Fritts/526-8890
Tuesday	7 p.m.	PYOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Ms. Scheck/231-9511
Sunday	9 a.m.	Samoa	Veterans'	Titus	Chap. Fritts/526-8888

### JEWISH

For information and a schedule of Jewish Sabbath services, call the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel at 333-2636.

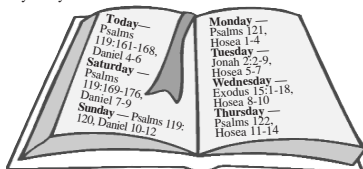
### WICCA

Monday 6:30 p.m. building 4800, corner of Harr and O'Connell Rhonda Helfrich/338-9464

### NATIVE AMERICAN SWEATLODGE

Native American Sweatlodge ceremonies (He Ska Akicita Inipi) are offered to military dependents and Department of Defense personnel. These lodges are traditional Lakota spiritual ceremonies for cleansing, purification and prayer, and are fully sanctioned and supported by the Fort Carson Chaplain Command. Please call the following for information and directions: Charlie Erwin at 382-8177; or Zoe Goodblanket 442-0929. The next lodge is Sunday at noon.

**Daily Bible readings:** To assist in regular scripture reading, the following scriptures are recommended. These scriptures are part of the common daily lectionary, which is designed to present the entire Bible over a three-year cycle.



**The Army Cycle of Prayer**—Please pray this week for the following:

**Unit:** For the active duty and National Guard Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers of the Joint Task Force GTMO, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

**Army:** For the cadets, staff and faculty of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

**State:** For all the Soldiers and families from the state of New Hampshire. Pray also for Gov. John Lynch, the state legislators and local officials of the "Granite State."

**Nation:** For God's blessing on our republic as we vote on Nov. 7 that our elected leaders will preserve and protect "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" at home and peace and security abroad.

**Religious:** For the celebration of All Saints Day Nov. 1 honoring all Christian saints, known and unknown. For our own service in response to God's calling in our lives.

For more information on the Army Cycle of Prayer or to pray for items from previous weeks, visit the cycle's website at [www.usarmychaplain.com](http://www.usarmychaplain.com).

## Early Warning Notification

# Answering your phone may save your life

Story and photo by

Rebecca E. Tonn

*Mountaineer staff*

Ignoring your ringing home phone might not be a good idea. If an incident occurs in your neighborhood, the automated Early Warning Notification System will call your home phone with instructions and or warnings, according to Kim Perkins, communications supervisor for Fort Carson Fire and Emergency Services.

"If there is a HazMat (Fort Carson Hazardous Material Response Team) incident and residents need to stay in (their) homes, or we need to do a mass evacuation (because of) a gas leak or an emergency water main break, or there is a bear (or mountain lion roaming) in a neighborhood, this system alerts people to any danger and keeps them from overloading the system with calls to GMH (housing) or the Provost Marshal's office. Residents will receive a call that says 'please, stand by for an emergency message from Fort Carson Fire and Emergency Services,'" Perkins explained.

"We can use this system at no charge — as often as we need to," said FCFES Fire Chief Mike Harris.

However, we don't want people to become complacent when the phone rings. I am excited to have this system, here. We are working towards providing the best service that we can to this installation and this (system) provides one more attribute to our goal," Harris said.

Messages can be sent according to telephone prefixes or address blocks, depending on the situation. The need for a notification system was made apparent by the (2002) Hayman fire, Perkins said. "We have been in the planning and process phase for two years. Last year, we began a request for proposal process with Dialogic (Dialogic Communications Corporation). We are still training with other entities, but the system is ready to go if we need it. Chief Harris will direct the dispatch if the garrison commander, the PMO or GMH needs a message sent," Perkins said.

Residents should be aware that the automated messages will currently appear as "unknown caller" on caller identification displays.

"The phone company is working on repairing that, so the call will come up as '911' — but it is not into effect, yet," said Harris.

"The automated system will leave a message on voicemail — provided

(there is) not a telemarketer block on the phone. The system is only as good as the information we have. People that have moved or have any kind of information changes need to double check that the phone company has their current information,"

Perkins said, so they will receive only the emergency calls that are specific to their current address. By January, emergency messages will be able to be sent to cell phones, BlackBerrys or some pagers, for those who want to be notified of neighborhood emergencies, even when they are not home.

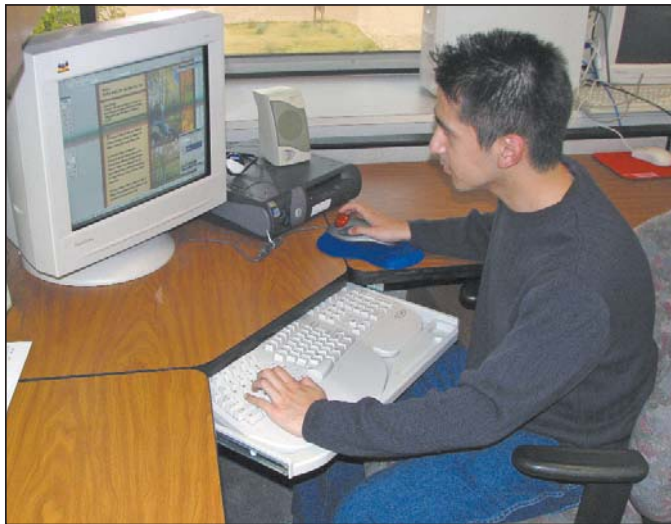
The system can make 4,500 calls in 12 minutes.

"We activate the information here; it goes to the El Paso/Teller authority building and accesses 45 phone lines, so it does not tie up our Fort Carson lines. (The system has) already been used several times in El Paso County, and it has been tested at Fort Carson.

"The system will also be used for employee call back in case the police need to call back the SWAT team, or if we need to call back our wildland crews or HazMat crews. We can create a command group and send a message to colonels, our fire chief, the provost marshal—whomever it needs to go to, with one phone call," Perkins said.



Kristen Miller, public safety dispatcher for Fort Carson Fire and Emergency Services, answers a phone call and accesses information from the Tri Tech CAD System in the fire station's dispatch room, Oct. 23.



Photos by Michael J. Pach

## Volunteers of the Quarter

The installation Volunteers of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2006 were honored at a ceremony Oct. 28. The honorees are Directorate of Morale Welfare and Recreation marketing department volunteer, Rolando Cruz, Family Readiness Group leader, Christy Kenedy, Thrift Shop volunteer, Rosi Johnston and DMWR Child Youth Services volunteer, Shaun Harris. **Above:** Rolando Cruz looks over a flier he designed for DMWR. Cruz is a graphic-design student at Pikes Peak Community College. **Left:** Rosi Johnston sorts clothes at the Thrift Shop. Johnston is married to retired 1st. Sgt. Johnny Johnston and has three grandchildren. Anyone interested in volunteering on post should contact Joey Bautista at 526-1082.





Photo by Rebecca E. Tonn

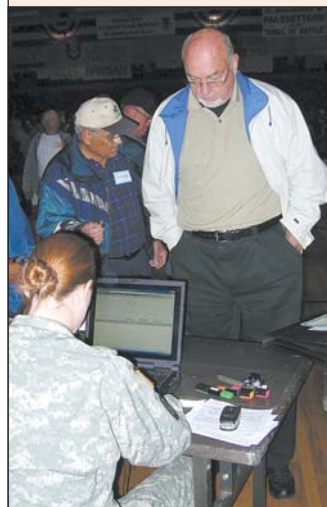
## Disability Awareness Fair

*Vendors interact with visitors during the Disability Awareness Fair Tuesday at Evans Army Community Hospital. Eighteen vendors attended the fair, which was sponsored by the Fort Carson Equal Employment Opportunity Office. "It was a great information exchange, and we are pleased with today's turnout. A variety of issues that affect individuals with disabilities were addressed," said Patricia Rosas, EEO Specialist.*





Spc. Tabethe Kosmicki, a reservist with the 7215th Medical Support Unit in Aurora, administers a flu shot to Retiree Robert Nipe at the Retiree Appreciation Day held at the Special Events Center Saturday.



Spc. Jennifer Weber, 148th Military Police Detachment, assists Retiree Jim Lynch register his automobile during Fort Carson's Retiree Appreciation Day.



Retirees wanting a flu shot formed three lines, the length of the gym, during Retiree Appreciation Day at the Special Events Center Saturday.



Attendees at Fort Carson's Retiree Appreciation Day enjoy a free continental breakfast at the Special Events Center.

John W. Radke, left, chief, Army Retirement Services, talked with retirees during Retiree Appreciation Day Saturday.



## Retiree Appreciation Day

Story and photos by  
**Nel Lampe**  
Mountaineer staff

To butcher a line from the movie, "The Field of Dreams," ... "If you hold it, they will come." And come they did, by the hundreds, to Retiree Appreciation Day Saturday. Held at the Special Events Center, about 1,800 retirees, widows, widowers and spouses filled the gym, almost to capacity. Although there had been a dusting of snow in the area overnight, it didn't seem to deter the retirees.

"When I arrived at the Special Events Center at 6 a.m., retirees were already in the parking lot," said Leona Abdullah-Allen, RAD project officer.

And they kept coming, right up until the doors closed at noon. A few retirees were still in the Special Events Center as workers

closed down their stations and packed fliers and pamphlets.

Upon entering the Special Events Center, retirees were greeted by Army Junior ROTC cadets from Fountain-Fort Carson High School. People wanting a flu shot filled out paperwork and headed for the line. The line for flu shots had become a triple line by 10 a.m., stretching from the south end of the gym to the north end. About 1,300 flu shots were administered.

Retirees were able to learn about long-term care, estate planning and medical issues. TRICARE representatives were on hand. Vehicle decals were issued, as well as new identification cards. Door prizes were handed out and old acquaintances renewed.

Retiree Jose Morales, who lives in Colorado Springs, said he comes to RAD every year "... to look for my friends."

Rick and Buza Ahn, of

Fountain, waited in line for an hour and 10 minutes to get their flu shots.

Retired Lt. Col. Joe Gmelch, chairman of Retiree Council Committee, said "This was the most successful retiree day we've had in the past 10 years."

"The Special Events Center is big enough to do all the things we needed to for the retirees and it worked," said Abdullah-Allen.

"The whole set up worked well." Maj. Gen. Robert W. Mixon Jr., commanding general of Training Division West, First Army and Fort Carson, Garrison Commander Col. Eugene Smith, Command Sgt. Major Terrance McWilliams, and Retired Command Sgt. Major Lonny Cupp participated in opening ceremonies. John W. Radke, chief, Army Retirement Services for the Department of the Army, was guest speaker.

"This was my first RAD," Abdullah-Allen said. "I couldn't have done it without chairman of the Retiree Council Gmelch and vice chairman Lonny Cupp, as well as the Fountain Army JROTC cadets. Maj. Mary Martindale and Sgt 1st Class Roddy Lynburn of Casualty Assistance and the Retiree Services staff were invaluable," she said.

Retirees and spouses enjoyed coffee and a continental breakfast at the Special Events Center while browsing the tables, waiting in line for flu shots or visiting with friends.

The Fort Carson Post Exchange had a lot of retiree customers Saturday. RAD attendees who stopped by the commissary were greeted by employees and invited for breakfast served by mayoral program volunteers, before shopping for retiree specials.



Retirees were greeted by an Army Junior ROTC cadet upon entering the Special Events Center. Thirty cadets from the JROTC unit at Fountain-Fort Carson High School assisted with the event.



Becky Bayer, right, talks with Retiree Rafael Santos about the Mountain Post Historical Center. Money is being raised to build the center, shown in an artist's rendition at right.



Lybia Stevens, left, Lois DeCarolis and Marvin Adams enjoy a breakfast provided to retirees who visited Fort Carson's commissary Saturday during the annual Retiree Appreciation Day. Volunteers from the mayoral program helped serve the food.



Joey Bautista, left, Volunteer Services coordinator, Army Community Services, talks with retiree F. L. Wood and his wife about volunteering for the post.

Layout by Jeanne Mazerall



# Out & About

October 28 - November 3, 2006

Proudly Brought to You by Your Fort Carson Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation  
Visit us at [www.ftcarsonmwr.com](http://www.ftcarsonmwr.com)

## Now Showing FREE Sunday Movies

### Sunday - October 29th:

Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (PG) at 1 p.m.  
Night of the Living Dead (NR) at 4 p.m.

**Freedom Performing Arts Center**  
Building 1129  
Corner of Specker and Ellis Ave.  
For more information:  
**526-1867**



**Freedom Performing Arts Center**  
Wednesday, 15 November 2006  
starting at 5 pm

presented by:

**INTEGRITY**  
HOME THEATER

Don't miss this educational seminar on home theater technologies! Topics we will cover include front projection, rear projection, and flat panel televisions, plus surround sound systems and overall home theatre design.

For more information, call 526-1867  



## Git Along, Little Punkins!

**2006 Pumpkin Patch Hay Wagon Rides at Turkey Creek Ranch**

**18 - 29 October (Wednesdays - Sundays)**

Pile into the Turkey Creek Hay Wagon and head out to the patch  
in search of your very own "Great Pumpkin."

Cost: \$8 per person, or \$25 for a family of four

Children ages two and younger are free with a paid parent

Private group rates are available by the wagon load (20 riders)

Reservations are required and spaces fill up quickly!

Call 526-3905 for details

Turkey Creek Ranch is located just off of Highway 115  
about 10 miles south of Fort Carson's Main Gate.  
Stop by the Mercantile to learn more about  
our family-friendly programs and activities.

For more information, call 719-526-3905



## The Annual Red Ribbon Campaign October 23 - 31, 2006

sponsored by  
the Fort Carson **A**lcohol and **S**ubstance **A**buse **P**rogram  
and **M**others **A**gainst **D**runk **D**riving

Join this nationwide commemoration of  
drug abuse prevention and education,  
designed to increase public awareness.

**Help us eliminate illegal drugs in our schools  
the workplace and Fort Carson community.**

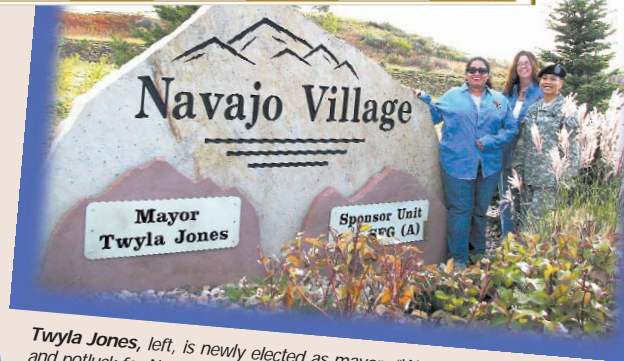
**Contact Ed Menjivar for more information: 526-9191**



# Meet the



**Maribeth Ferguson** is newly elected as mayor. "I was an Army brat; I was raised on Fort Carson. Now I'm a military spouse. I try to draw on that (as mayor). Civilians don't understand our world. We — the Army — are a family. We need to be taking each other under our wings. I'd like to see more unity and less gossip and drama. I want to be available to the people in my village and improve life for all of us on Fort Carson," Ferguson said. Ferguson can be reached at 209-9411, 302-4136 or [ladyferguson@msn.com](mailto:ladyferguson@msn.com).



Photos by Rebecca E. Tom

**Twyla Jones**, left, is newly elected as mayor. "We're planning a safety day and potluck for November. We're looking to get more involved. I'm hoping to get volunteers to join me each week in beautifying our neighborhood," Jones said. Jones can be reached at 886-3305, 352-8688 or [twyltdg77@aol.com](mailto:twyltdg77@aol.com).

**Theresa Trammell**, center, is a recently-appointed deputy mayor. "I like to get to know the people in the neighborhood. I've met more people since I started doing this — including people from other villages. I'm excited about our upcoming events," Trammell said. Trammell can be reached at 559-9022 or [tram212227@hotmail.com](mailto:tram212227@hotmail.com).

**Sgt. 1st Class Mitchelene BigMan**, right, is a recently-appointed deputy mayor. "I just walk around and introduce myself to those who happen to be outside. I try to keep an eye on things in the morning and the evening," BigMan said. BigMan can be reached at 559-9231 or [mitchelene.bigman@carson.army.mil](mailto:mitchelene.bigman@carson.army.mil).





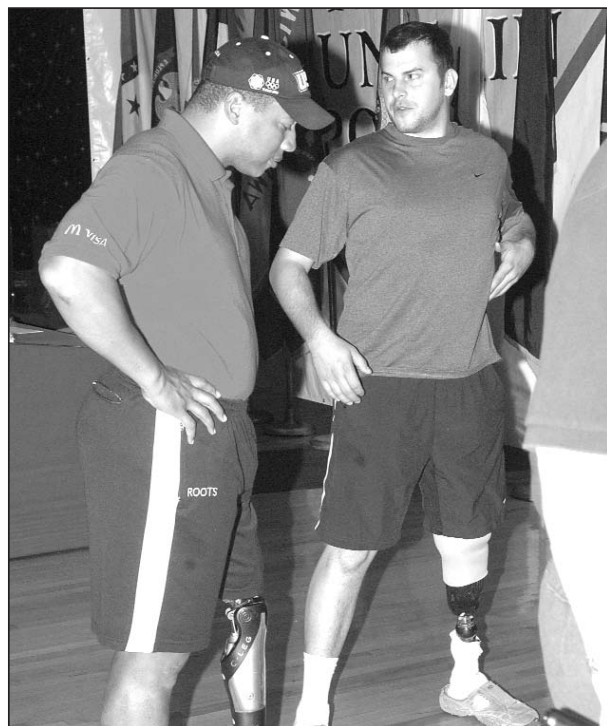
Photos by Nel Lampe

## Cheyenne Mountain State Park

**Above:** Colorado's newest state park was opened in a ceremony at the park's visitor center Saturday. The park is opposite Fort Carson's Gate 1. **Left:** Garrison Commander Eugene Smith looks at a map of the park after the opening ceremony. His wife Fran is to his right. The park, which contains 1,680 acres, is open Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. only, until park construction is completed. Several miles of hiking trails are open.

# SPORTS & LEISURE

## Paralympic athletes compete on post



John Register, left, talks with Fort Carson's Brian Wilhelm during a break in the action at the paralympics event at the Special Events Center on post.

Story and photos by  
**Walt Johnson**

*Mountaineer staff*

Paralympic athletes from around the country gathered at the Mountain Post's Special Events Center Oct. 19 as the post played host to the United States Olympic Committee-sponsored 4th Paralympic Military Summit.

John Register, United States Olympic Committee spokesperson, said the event was a great way to help the Colorado Springs community honor military members who lost limbs while serving in the nation's Global War on Terrorism.

"We are using the community as an outreach effort because many people have such a great interest in the servicemembers injured in defense of our country. We are very thankful to Fort Carson for opening its doors to us. We are also using the United States Olympic Training center and the Air Force Academy. Because we're 'purple suiters,' we want to use all the facilities that are around us and give everyone a chance to show their appreciation and gratitude to those that have (been injured) defended our country and have made the ultimate sacrifice for us," Register said.

Register said the summit was

designed to reintroduce the newly injured service members to Paralympics sports that will enhance their rehabilitation and their lifestyle. He said the program is designed to be implemented in two tiers that help the service members make a decision if the program will be beneficial to them in their rehabilitation process.

"This is a two-tier type of program.

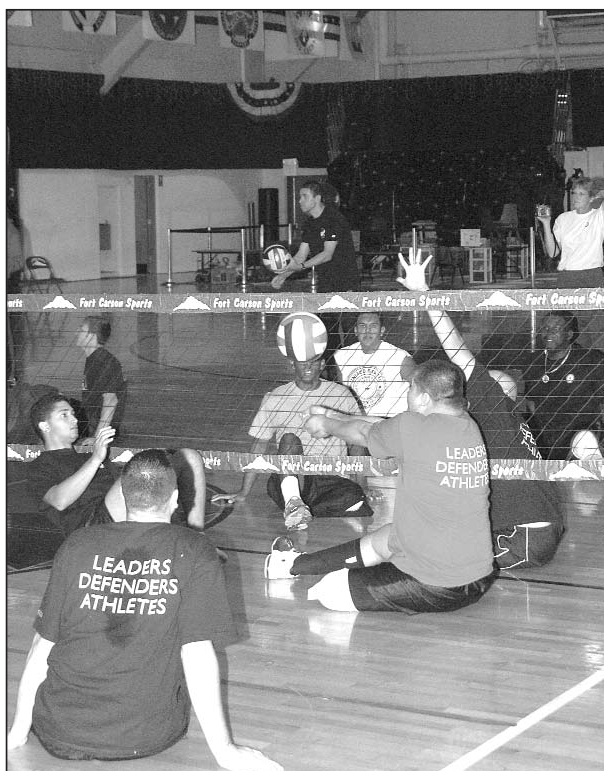
Tier one, which is what we are doing today, is the basic introduction to a sport. Tier two takes them to the next level—competition. There are a lot of competitions that happen around the country that we try to interface with. We create this program twice a year, once at the Olympic training center in Colorado Springs and the other is at our training center in Chula Vista, Calif., which also has a great military community (Navy and Marine Corps) there," Register said.

Not only did the wounded athletes take part in the summit but many members of the Mountain Post community lent a hand to help make it a success. One group of athletes that helped during the event was members of the World Class Athlete Program. Joe Guzman, a heavyweight boxer, was one of the WCAP members that volunteered for the

See **Athletes** on Page 36



Paralympic athletes joined members of the World Class Athlete Program in a wheelchair volleyball game at the post Special Events Center.



Paralympic athletes joined members of the World Class Athlete Program in a floor volleyball game at the post Special Events Center.

## On the Bench

# Outdoor recreation office will hold Ski Expo Saturday

by **Walt Johnson**

*Mountaineer staff*

**The outdoor recreation office will be offering a Ski Expo Saturday at the outdoor recreation complex.**

The Expo will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature on site ski lift ticket specials. There will also be a ski, snowboard and winter clothing sale on the first day for seasonal ski rentals. There will also be giveaways, gear swaps and much more at the event. For more information call 526-5366.

**The post youth center is now accepting signups for winter basketball and cheerleading.**

Registration for cheerleading will take place now through Dec. 11 for ages 3-to-4, 5-to-6, 7-to-9, 10-12 and 13-to-15 years old.

Signups are also under way for the youth basketball program from now until Dec. 11. There will be two programs in basketball, a developmental league for youth 3-to-9 years old and a recreational league for youth 10-to-18 years old. For more information call the youth center at 526-1233.

**The all-Army team has finished its training camp work as it prepares for the upcoming interservice basketball championships at the Mountain Post's Special Events Center Nov. 5-10.**

The Navy will come into the tournament as the defending champions and the Army will look to win back the crown it won in 2004. The Navy, Marine and Air Force teams will arrive at the Mountain Post beginning Wednesday for the start of the tournament that will kick off with an ice breaker on Saturday night.

The schedule for the games will be as follows: Nov. 5 12:30 p.m., Marines vs. Navy and 20 minutes after the conclusion of that game, Army vs. Air Force. Nov. 6, 4 p.m., Air Force vs. Marines and 20 minutes after the conclusion of that game, Navy vs. Army. Nov. 7, 4 p.m., Air Force vs. Navy and 20 minutes after the conclusion of that game, Marines vs. Army. Nov. 8, 4 p.m., Air Force vs. Army and 20 minutes after the



Photo by Walt Johnson

## New champions

*The 1st Mobilization quarterback, center, prepares to throw a pass during the post intramural championship game Oct. 16 at the Mountain Post Sports complex. The 1st Mob team won the game and the post championship with a 28-22 win.*





Photo by Walt Johnson

## Falcons host BYU

*Air Force players stop a Navy runner during action recently at Falcon Stadium. The Academy will host the Brigham Young University Cougars Saturday at noon in a battle for first place in the Mountain West Conference. The game will also be televised by VERSUS, channel 56 on Adelphia/Comcast digital cable and can be heard on KVOR AM 740 in Colorado Springs.*

## Bench

From Page 34

conclusion of that game, Navy vs. Marines. Nov. 9, 4 p.m., Army vs. Navy and 20 minutes after the conclusion of that game, Marines vs. Air Force. Nov. 10, 4 p.m., Army vs. Marines and 20 minutes after the conclusion of that game, Navy vs. Air Force. The winner of the tournament will be determined by the team with the best record after the round-robin affair.

**A team that utilizes feats of strength to relay positive messages to people in churches, civic centers, stadiums, and coliseums nationally** and internationally will hold a conference at the First Southern Baptist Church, 1409 Palmer Park Blvd, in Colorado Springs Nov. 15-19.

The conference will feature athletes who have performed the world's greatest exhibitions of power, strength, speed, inspiration, and motivation in every state and in over 40 countries for almost 30 years according to Summer Williams, First Southern Baptist Church spokesperson.

The Power Team has several world record holders, former NFL football players, and professional wrestlers. They have been endorsed by more than 50 governors, senators, and congressmen

for their positive contribution to the lives of America's youth. The various members of The Power Team are among America's most sought after speakers, encouraging people to live a life of excellence and challenging them to be the best that they can be.

**This week's schedule of Air Force sporting events will include: women's volleyball against the University of Northern Colorado** at 7 p.m. tonight at Clune Arena on the Air Force Academy. Also Friday at 4 p.m., the Academy women's soccer team will meet the University of New Mexico at 4 p.m., the junior varsity football team will meet the Prep School team at 5 p.m. on the turf field adjacent to Clune Arena and a blue-vs.-silver wrestling match will take place at 7 p.m. at the Cadet Gym-East. Saturday the women's volleyball team will meet Wyoming at 7 p.m. at Clune Arena.

Tuesday the Academy's women's basketball team will meet the Colorado School of Mines at 7 p.m. at Clune Arena. Academy officials remind all fans that the events are free (with the exception of football and volleyball) and open to the public. Please use the North Gate entrance (Exit 156B) for access.





*World Class Athlete Program boxer Joe Guzman, left, tries to defend a shot from a paralympic athlete during action Oct. 21 at the post's Special Events Center.*

## Athlete

From Page 33

event and he expressed the feelings of all his teammates.

"For me, it's important to come out and support these guys who have been through a lot defending our country. Just the fact that we can come out and support and help them now is an honor for me and my teammates. When I was asked to come out and take the time to be here for the athletes I thought it was great and was proud to do it. I like the idea that the paralympic athletes can be in this environment and experience something like this that is new for them. If paralympic becomes a WCAP sport we can get more involved in the athletes' training and help them achieve success in the paralympic area for the WCAP program and they in turn can help us as we train in our sports," Guzman said.

One of the most encouraging athletes at the event was Brian Wilhelm, a retiree, who lost a leg defending the nation. Wilhelm said he first got involved with paralympic events two years ago while at a paralympic event in California. Wilhelm is now focusing his

sights on being an Olympic athlete for the country in the 2008 games in China.

"I was at a disabled athletes sporting event in Long Beach about two years ago and ran into a coach for U.S. Olympic paralympic track and field coach who talked to me about it and I started looking into it. I'm actually training now to be an Olympic athlete in the 2008 Olympic Games in the 100 meter, 400 meter, shot put and long jump. My injury didn't stop me from staying in the Army and it's not going to stop me from pursuing my goal to be on the Olympic team. Its not so much the physical part of it it's the mental part of it," Wilhelm said.

"A lot of guys are held back by their own desires not to go ahead. They are used to the stereotype they had in their heads before their injury and I don't think people should follow the stereotype of anything in life. Each person is their own individual so why not be the most successful at what you're doing when you can be? There are a lot of people who have lost limbs and are in great shape and have a lot of drive and desire and want to do great things for the country," Wilhelm added.

## Mountaineer High School Sports



### Running to gold

*Fountain-Fort Carson's Jamal Johnson, with the ball, races up the right sideline and past Pueblo Centennial Bulldog defenders to score the Trojans second touchdown of the day Saturday at Dutch Clark Stadium in Pueblo. The Trojans dropped the first game of the season to the Bulldogs to see its season record go to 7-1. The Trojans will meet the Rampart Rams tonight in the school's homecoming contest at 7 p.m. at Fountain-Fort Carson's Gary Barrickman Stadium.*

Photo by Walt Johnson

## *Mountaineer* **Athlete of the Week**



### **Casey Searby**

**Sports Position:** All-Army basketball team manager

**What got you started in sports?**

I played all the sports I could when I was growing up. I got started when I was in school because I would be around the other kids and we just went out and played sports. I was never able to take it to the level I dreamed of but I enjoyed playing all sports.

**What is your proudest personal moment in sports?**

My best moment came when I was in the fifth grade. My team was playing in the playoffs in Iowa and we needed a hit to tie the game. I was the next batter to come to bat and I ended up getting the hit that allowed my team to move on in the playoffs.

**What is your best moment in professional sports and why?**

I am a big fan of the Iowa Hawkeyes and a big fan of college sports. Anytime the Hawkeyes make it to a big bowl game in football I get excited. So I was really excited in 2003 when I got to go to the Orange Bowl in Miami and watch the Hawkeyes take on the USC Trojans the year the Trojans won its share of the national championship. The Hawkeyes ended up losing the game but I was happy because it was the best season the Hawkeyes had had in some time.



## *Mountaineer Youth Sports*



### **Kick it away**

*Fort Carson's Brad Hort, No. 1, punts the ball away during the post youth team's game against the Holmes Hawks. The youth team dropped the game and will end its season Saturday at 10:15 a.m. when it takes on the Jenkins Jaguars Gold at Skyview Sports Complex in Colorado Springs.*

Photo by Walt Johnson



## Week 8 Football

### College

1. Clemson vs. Virginia Tech
2. BYU vs. Air Force
3. Army vs. Tulane
4. Georgia vs. Florida
5. Colorado vs. Kansas
6. Notre Dame vs. Navy



**Andrew Carr**  
**Retired**

1. Clemson, 2. BYU, 3. Tulane,
4. Georgia, 5. Kansas, 6. Navy,
7. Eagles, 8. Falcons, 9. Giants,
10. Chiefs, 11. Ravens, 12. Rams,
13. Jets, 14. Colts, 15. Panthers,
16. Vikings



**Nate Cavender**  
**55th RQS**

1. Virginia Tech, 2. BYU, 3. Army
4. Florida, 5. Kansas, 6. Notre Dame,
7. Jaguars, 8. Bengals, 9. Buccaneers,
10. Chiefs, 11. Ravens, 12. Chargers,
13. Browns, 14. Colts, 15. Panthers,
16. Patriots



**David Grimes**  
**360th Trans Co.**

1. Virginia Tech, 2. BYU, 3. Tulane,
4. Florida, 5. Colorado, 6. Notre
- Dame, 7. Eagles, 8. Bengals,
9. Giants, 10. Chiefs, 11. Ravens,
12. Chargers, 13. Jets, 14. Colts,
15. Cowboys, 16. Patriots



**Austin Penny**  
**731st ALS**

1. Virginia Tech, 2. BYU, 3. Tulane,
4. Florida, 5. Kansas, 6. Notre Dame,
7. Eagles, 8. Falcons, 9. Giants,
10. Chiefs, 11. Saints, 12. Rams,
13. Jets, 14. Colts, 15. Panthers,
16. Patriots

### NFL

7. Jaguars vs. Steelers
8. Falcons vs. Bengals
9. Buccaneers vs. Giants
10. Seahawks vs. Chiefs
11. Ravens vs. Saints
12. Rams vs. Chargers
13. N.Y. Jets vs. Browns
14. Colts vs. Broncos
15. Cowboys vs. Panthers
16. Patriots vs. Vikings





**Below:** Colorado Springs' founder, Gen. William Palmer, built a 67-room English-style castle on his property just north of the Garden of the Gods.



# Happening

## How the rich & famous lived in 1871

**Story and photos by Nel Lampe**  
Mountaineer staff

**G**en. William Palmer, Colorado Springs' founder, chose one of the most scenic places in the area for his residence. His estate is just north of the Garden of the Gods Park.

He and his new bride first lived in a tent while the carriage house was built, then they lived in the carriage house while his house was constructed. Although the house was large, he had it expanded a few years later, and renovated and expanded it again in 1904 to its present size — a 67-room mansion.

Forty fireplaces were added in the renovation. A large hall was built — 37 feet by 58 feet, which seated 300 people. The great room has a 25-foot high ceiling and a huge fireplace of stone built without mortar.

The castle also had a wine cellar, billiard room and a bowling alley.

The castle was called "Glen Eyrie," which means valley of the

eagle's nest. A bald eagle's nest is in the valley.

Palmer was from Pennsylvania and served in the Union Army during the Civil War. He was promoted to general at the age of 30; the second youngest general ever. He also was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Following the war, Palmer returned to the railroad business. Working for the Kansas Pacific Railroad, he was scouting for a railway route to the west when he arrived in Colorado in 1868.

Palmer liked the Pikes Peak area. It is said that he first saw Pikes Peak and the Garden of the Gods in the moonlight. Palmer had dreamed of an "ideal town," and chose the Colorado site to establish it. He bought land north of the Garden of the Gods to build his home, naming the site "Queen's Canyon."

Palmer also built his own railroad, starting the line in Denver and going south to Colorado

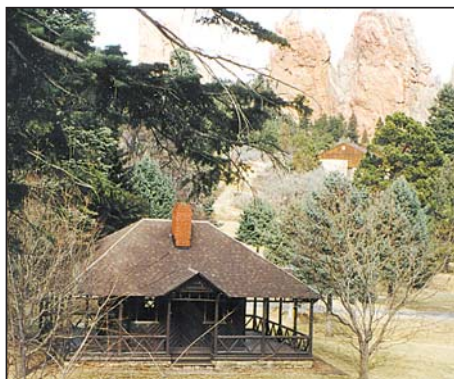
Spring. His vision was to extend the railroad all the way to Mexico City.

Palmer gathered several of the men he had served with in the 15th Pennsylvania unit to help him build his railroad and town.

Palmer had many ideas about what he wanted in his ideal city, such as wide streets, lots of trees and parks. He wanted the streets wide enough that a team of horses and a wagon could make a U-turn. Trees were brought in from the Arkansas Valley and planted along streets. Irrigation canals were run along the streets so the trees could be watered. Palmer had parks designed and built, donating them to the city. He started Colorado College and built a large hotel, the Antlers, near the train station where his train, the Denver and Rio Grande, would stop.

Palmer wanted Colorado Springs to be a resort community. He hoped to please his new bride who was from Long Island, N.Y. She preferred New York to the small prairie settlement in the shadow of Pikes Peak, but Palmer was hoping to change her mind.

After his marriage, Palmer and his wife, known as "Queen," spent a lot of time in England. He had friends and



The small building on Glen Eyrie grounds was used as an early school house. Vertical red rocks, similar to those in Garden of the Gods, are on the Glen Eyrie estate.



Places to see in the Pikes Peak area.

**Oct. 27, 2006**



## Glen Eyrie

From Page 41

investors in England and his visits there influenced the style of the castle he would build in Colorado. Many of the materials used in the castle were brought from England, such as roof tiles he took from an English church being dismantled. Palmer was very intelligent and largely self taught. He was forward thinking and inventive and had ideas far ahead of his time.

For instance, his castle included an elevator, a central vacuum system and a smoke removal system. Glen Eyrie had a telephone and electricity at the same time it was available in New York City.

He used equipment obtained from Louis Pasteur to set up a dairy at the castle.

Palmer was very successful in the railroad business. He built lines through the mountains to reach the mining camps in Colorado, using a unique narrow-track design, which was cheaper than wide gauge and the narrow gauge tracks allowed his trains to take curves and steep climbs easier. The narrow gauge was perfect for mountain terrain.

After Queen Palmer had a heart attack in her mid-40s, she left the high altitude of Colorado, eventually settling in England, along with her three daughters. After that, Palmer



**Left:** One of several fireplaces in Glen Eyrie, this one is guarded by a suit of armor. Many of the furnishings in the English Tudor style mansion came from England.

**Right:** A tour guide points out the details of the decorative ceiling to members of a tour through Glen Eyrie.



spent as much time in England as he could, living in Colorado Springs the rest of the time. When Queen died, Palmer brought his daughters back to Colorado and they lived in the castle until his death in 1909.

Palmer's daughters did not stay at Glen Eyrie after their father's death, and the estate has had several owners since then.

The last time the 500-acre estate was sold was in the 1950s, when it was acquired by a Christian ministerial group, The Navigators. It is now used for retreats and conferences. Over the years the estate has become more available to the public.

The estate is open to the public for guided tours at 1 p.m. each day. Reservations are required. The cost is \$5 for anyone older than 15. Children under 15 are admitted free.

In addition to the tour, an English Tea is available Thursday through Monday at 2:30 p.m. The tea costs \$12.93 per person, and reservations are required. Guests are served tea, scones with Devonshire cream and

preserves and a selection of other light snack items. Call 634-0808 for reservations for the tea. The 90-minute guided tour begins at 1 p.m. and is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. There is a discount if guests book both the tour and tea.

On Sunday only, a formal Victorian Tea is served at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. The Victorian Tea menu includes tea sandwiches in addition to the scone and sweets and is \$17.71 per person.

Guests may book a room in the castle or other buildings on Glen Eyrie grounds. There are 100 guest rooms and a stay includes breakfast. Call (877) 488-8787 for information about reservations and rates.

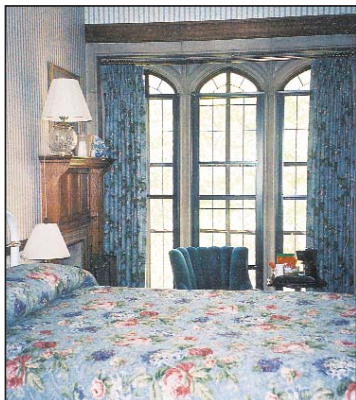
Toby Reed, marketing director, said that Glen Eyrie is a Christian training and conference center that offers several conferences covering hard-hitting subjects and are available to the public. Conference subjects include reconnecting families, depression and marriage. There are conferences to help people, to build and inspire. The Web site is [www.gleneyrie.org](http://www.gleneyrie.org).

There are also holiday events at Glen Eyrie which are available to the public. A very popular event is a 16th-century style "A Madrigal Feast." It is held in the great room during the Christmas season. Costumed workers serve the six-course Victorian-style meal with proper ceremony. Many of the guests join in the fun by wearing medieval or formal dress. Tickets are \$85 and \$95. Performances are Nov. 24, 25, 30 and Dec. 1-2, 7-9, 14-16, and 18-20. Call (877) 488-8787.

New this year is a Trailridge Christmas, featuring holiday dessert, western songs, a singalong

### Just the Facts

- **Travel time:** 30 minutes
- **For ages:** all
- **Type:** historic castle
- **Fun factor:** ★★★★★  
(Out of 5 stars)
- **Wallet damage:** \$ (tour)
  - \$ = \$20 or less
  - \$\$ = \$21 to \$40
  - \$\$\$ = \$41 to \$60
  - \$\$\$\$ = \$61 to \$80
 (Based on a family of four)



Rooms in the castle are quite luxurious. Glen Eyrie serves as a bed and breakfast, with about 100 rooms on the grounds.



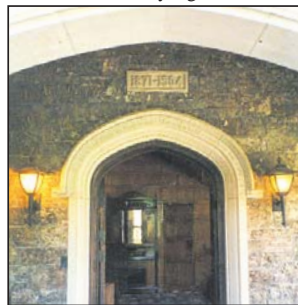
Guests enjoy a traditional English Tea at Glen Eyrie castle.

and a free Christmas photograph. Tickets are \$25 for those under 12 and \$35 for adults. Call (877) 488-8787 for reservations.

Self-guided driving tours are offered from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday — Thursday. A complimentary CD or cassette recording guides the tour; a donation is requested.

The castle is located just north of the Garden of the Gods entrance, at 3820 N. 30th St. Take Interstate 25 north to the Garden of the Gods exit, going west and following the signs to Garden of the Gods.

The entrance to Glen Eyrie is marked with a sign for The Navigators. Turn west at the entrance and follow the road to the gate house. The attendant will give further instructions. A small gift shop is at the gatehouse, with books, Victorian-style gifts and CDs.



The original Palmer 22-room house was built in 1871. Upgraded to a 67-room castle, construction was completed in 1904.

## Get Out!

### Halloween activities

**Mind Seizure Haunted House** — the city's oldest haunted house is at the Flea Market, 5225 E. Platte Ave., about a mile east of the Citadel Shopping Center. Management recommends it for ages 12 and over. Mind Seizure is open through Tuesday. Admission is \$13. More information is at [www.mindseizurehauntedhouse.com](http://www.mindseizurehauntedhouse.com).

**Town of Terror** is the haunted house at Buckskin Joe, near the Royal Gorge Bridge. It is open through Sunday. Learn more by going to [www.BuckskinJoe.com](http://www.BuckskinJoe.com) and clicking on "activities."

**"Boo at the Zoo"** is today through Sunday at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Road. From 5:30-8 p.m. admission is \$10, children 2 and under get in free. There are treat stations, a bat cave, pumpkin path and magic shows. Free bus shuttles run from the Sears parking lot at the Broadmoor Towne Center off S. Nevada Avenue; call 633-9924 for information.

**Emma's Favorite Haunts** are in Manitou Springs. Visit the ghosts Saturday from 7-9 p.m., call 685-5894 for reservations. There's also a coffin parade at noon and a race at 1 p.m. It's in downtown Manitou Springs on Manitou Avenue.

**Six Flags Elitch Gardens' Fright Fest** is 5-10 p.m. Friday, noon-10 p.m. Saturday. Regular admission is charged or get tickets at Information, Registration and Tours, 526-5366. The fright fest runs through Saturday; go online at [www.sixflags.com](http://www.sixflags.com).

**For a little different Halloween treat, how about "The Vampire of Cripple Creek"?** It's for the whole family and is in the Butte Opera House in Cripple Creek, 139 E. Bennett Ave., through Tuesday. Call (719) 235-8944 for ticket information; Adults are \$13 and children \$7.

**Turkey Creek Ranch hosts a pumpkin patch** with hay-wagon rides. Rides to the pumpkin patch are offered through Sunday. There's a charge for the hay-wagon ride but each rider gets a pumpkin to take home. Reservations are recommended; call 526-3905.

### Academy football

**Three more home games are at the Air Force Academy:** Brigham Young University is Saturday, Notre Dame is in the stadium Nov. 11 and Utah plays there Nov. 18. Call the ticket office at 472-1895 to buy tickets or to ask about free tickets for military.

### Pueblo theater

**The concert season at the Pueblo Arts Center Theater** includes "Capitol Steps," Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m., "Romeo and Juliet," March 10 at 4 p.m. and Glenn Miller Orchestra, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. In addition, Conjunto Colores is Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Jackson Conference Center. Season tickets are \$90

and single tickets, as available, are \$20. Call (719) 295-7222. The Art Center Theater is at 210 N. Santa Fe Ave. in Pueblo, reached by taking Exit 98B.

### Concerts

**The Air Force Academy Band presents "Heritage to Horizons"** Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Pikes Peak Center. Featuring Wild Blue Country and Blue Steel, the concert is free but tickets are required. Get tickets at the Pikes Peak Center or World Arena box offices.

**Brad Paisley and American Idol winner Carrie Underwood** are in concert Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. at the World Arena; call 576-2626, tickets start at \$47.

**The Who is in the Pepsi Center** in Denver Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.; call 520-9090; tickets start at \$52.

**Vince Gill is in the Paramount Theater** on the 16th Street Mall in Denver Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$45, call 520-9090.

### Veterans Day Parade

**The annual Veterans Day Parade** is Nov. 11, beginning at 9 a.m. It is downtown, along Tejon Street. Call 282-3862 or go to [www.csvetsparade.org](http://www.csvetsparade.org).

### Theater

**Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"** is in Pikes Peak Center Nov. 11. Call the Pikes Peak Center box office at 520-SHOW.

Compiled by Nel Lampe





Photo by Nel Lampe

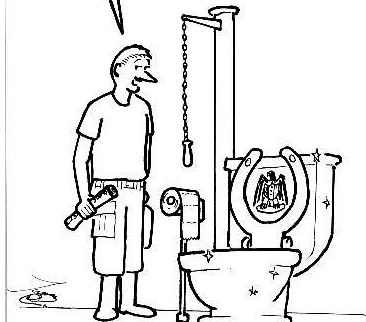
## Flying W winter schedule

*The Flying W Ranch has moved supper to the Winter Steakhouse, serving steak, beef brisket, chicken, trout or pork ribs cooked over an open fire, followed by the traditional Western show performed by the Flying W Wranglers. Dinner and show is \$26 for steak or \$24 for the other choices for adults. Children under 8 are charged \$12. Call 598-4000 for reservations.*

## Buster's Baghdad

by Maj. James D. Crabtree

IF ANYBODY BACK IN OHIO WUZ TO  
TELL ME I'D BE USING A SOLID GOLD  
TOILET...



ONE of SADDAM'S PALACES